

# 7-minute briefing on Safeguarding Adults Reviews



## Section 01 - Aim

The aim of a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) is to carry out a multi-agency review to determine what agencies involved could have done differently that could have prevented harm or a death from taking place. The aim is not to apportion blame - it is to promote effective learning and improvement to prevent future deaths or harm occurring and to improve how agencies work together towards positive outcomes for adults and their families.

## Section 02 - When should a SAR take place?

Cases should be referred to the Safeguarding Adult Review Group (SARG) for consideration if an adult with care and support needs has died or been seriously harmed and abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected, are believed to have been a factor and there are concerns about how agencies may or may not have worked together.

### **SARs are commissioned when:**

- there is reasonable cause for concern about how Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) members or other agencies providing services, worked together to safeguard an adult; **and**
- the adult has died, and NSAB knows or suspects that the death resulted from abuse or neglect (whether or not it knew about or suspected the abuse or neglect before the adult died); **or**
- the adult is still alive, and NSAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect. NSAB has discretion to undertake a SAR in other situations where it believes that there will be value in doing so, for example in the public interest.

## Section 03 - What difference do SARs make to safeguarding?

- SAR recommendations are used to agree an action plan for making changes or improvements to services to reduce the risk of future harm.
- Actions Plans are agreed and monitored to make improvements.
- Learning from the review is shared with partners on the NSAB website & through learning events.

## **Section 04 - What if a case may meet the criteria?**

Individual or agency should complete the **NSAB SAR1 Referral Form** including information they may have about the case.

Send form to the NSAB board manager via **nsabchair@norfolk.gov.uk**. The referral is reviewed by the SAR subgroup against criteria & recommendation is made to the independent chair if a SAR should take place.

Independent chair makes final decision and NSAB commission SAR.

Referrer is updated on outcome.

## **Section 05 - How are SARs carried out?**

Written by an external & independent reviewer with specialist skills and knowledge.

- Terms of reference for the SAR are recommended by the NSAB SAR Subgroup & agreed by the NSAB.
- Independent chair appointed.
- All the agencies involved contribute by providing chronologies of their involvement & by taking part in a series of multi-agency meetings; the views & experiences of practitioners are sought.
- Draft report & action plan produced by reviewer and signed off by NSAB.
- Review published on the NSAB website.

## **Section 06 - What happens if the case does not meet SAR criteria?**

If a referral does not meet SAR criteria, another course of action may be agreed to ensure learning is not lost such as a:

- a review primarily involving a case file audit, where this is reasonable and proportionate
- management review (within one or more organisations, i.e. a Single Agency Review, or Multi Agency Review (MAR))
- a discretionary SAR.

## **Section 07 Questions to consider and discuss**

- Are you aware of the criteria that means a case might meet SAR criteria? Do you know what action to take if you have a case that might meet SAR criteria?

Further information on SARs, including published reviews, can be found at:

**[www.norfolksafeguardingadultsboard.info](http://www.norfolksafeguardingadultsboard.info)**