

## Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board

### COVID-19 related Safeguarding Adults Review referrals:

#### **Position statement**

All members of the Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) wish to express their condolences to anyone who has lost a loved one during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

As we now move into a new phase of the response to the pandemic, there has been much debate about the possible increase in adult safeguarding concerns that may come to partners' attention (and subsequently through to Norfolk County Council). This is because during the lockdown there was less face to face contact with people with care and support needs by their family, friends, neighbours or professionals. Care homes have been a particular concern, since they were closed to visitors during this time. Raising a safeguarding concern for an adult is a duty for all partners under the Care Act (2014).

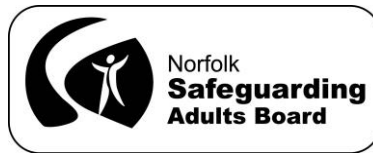
#### **Safeguarding Adults Review?**

The purpose of the [Safeguarding Adults Review](#) (SAR) is described very clearly in the statutory guidance, as to '*promote effective learning and improvement action to prevent future deaths or serious harm occurring again*'. The aim is that lessons can be learned from the case and for those lessons to be applied to future cases to prevent similar harm re-occurring. A SAR is **key tool to find learning and improvement for Norfolk's adult safeguarding system**.

The SAR does not hold any individual or organisation to account. Other processes exist for that purpose, including criminal proceedings, disciplinary procedures, employment law, and systems of service and professional regulation run by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the Health and Care Professions Council, and the General Medical Council etc.

It is suspected there may be many potential cases from the pandemic which will give Norfolk critical learning to help improve adult safeguarding.

To enable the best learning possible and to avoid duplication in relation to COVID-19 related SAR referrals, for cases which meet the statutory criteria for a review NSAB will:



- consider where appropriate, whether a *thematic approach* to identifying common themes and learning can be used to develop system-wide learning for Norfolk. This means cases would be reviewed together as a group, rather than individually
- look to share locally, regionally and nationally any emerging learning points as they arise, in recognition that the COVID-19 emergency continues and that lives may be saved by rapid dissemination of emerging learning.

NSAB will review and if appropriate step down this approach, in the light of any national enquiry into which individual cases can be referred to develop nationwide learning.

NSAB wishes to remind all partners of the following:

- **If you know of a case where a person has died / suffered serious harm, and adult abuse was known or suspected, you must refer it for consideration as a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR).**

### **How to refer a case for consideration as a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)**

Anyone can refer a case for consideration as a SAR. A case **MUST** be referred on a SAR1 Form.

[Click here for a SAR1 Form.](#)

[Click here to see the criteria for a SAR.](#) Do not worry if you are not sure if a case fits the criteria. If in doubt complete the referral form with as much detail as possible and send it in.

SAR referrals are considered by the Safeguarding Adults Review Group (SARG), a multi-agency subgroup of NSAB. Once a decision has been made by SARG, we will advise you whether or not the case meets the criteria for a SAR.

DATE STATEMENT ISSUED:

Friday 26 June 2020

END.