

1 What is the aim of a SAR?

The aim of a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) is to carry out a multi-agency review to determine whether the agencies involved in someone's life could have done things differently that could have prevented harm or 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.

7 What difference do SARs make to safeguarding?

- SAR recommendations are used to agree an action plan for making changes or improvements to services in order 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 SAB websites & through internal and external learning events.

6 What happens if the case does not meet SAR criteria?

If a referral does not meet the s.44 criteria, another course of action may be agreed to ensure the learning is not lost; such as:

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

2 Why are SARs important?

SARs are an opportunity to look and learn and help understand what went on in that case and how it might help all services to get it right more of the time. It is vital that any SAR seeks to get the views of the person (if possible), their family and anyone else in the community who can help improve our understanding. They can also identify and share good practice too.



Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)

5 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 SAR Panel & agreed by the SAB Independent Chair.
- All 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 SAB.
- Anonymised SAR is published on the SAB website.

3 The Care Act 2014 (s.44) requires a SAR when:

- there is reasonable cause for concern about how the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) members or other agencies providing services, worked together to safeguard an adult; **and**
- the adult has died, and SAB 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 the SAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect. The SAB 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.

4 What if a case meets the criteria?

Professionals should complete the SAR Referral Form.

Shropshire: www.shropshiresafeguardingcommunitypartnership.co.uk/media/2erjcqly/sscp-safeguarding-adult-review-referral-form.pdf

T&W: www.telfordsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk/news/article/13/spotlight-on-safeguarding-adult-reviews-sars

The referral is reviewed by the SAR Panel against the criteria & a recommendation is made to the SAB as to whether a SAR should take place. The Independent Chair makes final decision and a SAR is commissioned. The referrer is then updated on the outcome.

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Useful websites

Telford: www.telfordsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk

Shropshire: www.shropshiresafeguardingcommunitypartnership.co.uk

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