

## 1 Background

Under the Care Act, Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) are a statutory requirement for Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs). Safeguarding adult practice can be improved by identifying what is helping and what is hindering safeguarding work, in order to tackle barriers to good practice and protect adults from harm. SARs should be shared widely to maximise the value of the learning.

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## Why It Matters

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.

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## Information

SARs are commissioned when:

- there is reasonable cause for concern about how Sunderland Safeguarding Adult Board members or other agencies providing services, worked together to safeguard an adult;

**and**

- the adult has died, and the SSAB 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 SSAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.

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## What to do

You can read more about the SAR process in the [SAR Review Protocol](#) via this link to the Key Documents page on the SSAB website. It is under the SSAB Strategic Documents section.

Please note that it is essential to discuss cases with your agency safeguarding lead and obtain management approval before submitting the SAR referral.

You can find the [SAR Referral Form](#) via this link to the Key Documents page on the SSAB website. It is under the Forms section.



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## Questions

- Are you aware of the criteria that means a case might meet SAR criteria? (see box 3)
- Do you know what action to take if you have a case that might meet the criteria? (see box 7)
- Did you know that suicide can also be a factor for a SAR referral? (The [2nd National SARs Analysis Report](#) highlights risk of suicide was often not properly identified).

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## Sharing Learning

SSAB has a duty to ensure there is continual learning & improvement through single agency & multi-agency case audits, case reviews and (when necessary) SARs. If a referral does not meet SAR criteria, another course of action may be agreed to ensure learning is not lost; such as a single agency review, or other multi-agency review.

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## Information

SARs are written by independent reviewers. The SAR scoping panel recommend the terms of reference for the SAR. All the agencies involved contribute by providing details of their involvement & by taking part in SAR panel meetings. The views & experiences of those directly involved in the case are sought unless there are specific reasons for not doing this. The report & action plan is approved by SSAB. It is then published on the SSAB website.