

7 MINUTE BRIEFING

Safeguarding Adults Reviews



**KNOWSLEY
SAFEGUARDING
ADULTS BOARD**

PREVENTION THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

www.knowsleysafeguardingadultsboard.co.uk



1. Safeguarding Adult Review

Section 44 (1) of the Care Act 2014 places a statutory duty on Safeguarding Adults Boards (SAB) to conduct Safeguarding Adult Reviews in certain situations.

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

2. 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 agency may or may not have work together.

Agencies who were involved with the adult are required to co-operate and contribute to the carrying out of a review with the aim not to re-investigate or apportion blame but to identify any lessons to be learnt to improve practice from the adult's circumstances and applying those lessons to future cases.

3. Commissioned SARs

SARs are commissioned when:

- there is reasonable cause for concern about how agencies providing services, worked together to safeguard an adult; and
- the adult has died, and KSAB partner agency 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 KSAB partner agency knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect. KSAB 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. How do SARs make a difference 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.

7. Further Information and Referral form

The referral form can be found [here](#) and once completed returned to sar@wirral.gov.uk.

For more information:

[Care Act 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)

[Health and social care | Knowsley Council](#)

6. The SAR Process

The SAR Panel will consider whether the case meets the criteria for a mandatory or discretionary SAR.

If you are invited to a SAR panel or learning event, please remember it's a supportive and reflective process not a scrutiny on practice.

An independent chair / author may be commissioned to lead the review or provide other support.

A Review Panel will be established to review what happened and lessons can be learned. Once the review is complete, the learning identified will be shared and the report may be published.

5. Making a SAR referral:

If you feel a case meets the criteria or would benefit from a review, you may need to discuss it with your manager depending on your role.

The Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Review Group (MSARG) is a collaboration between relevant organisations in the Local Authority areas of Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton and Wirral.

The MSARG will consider all Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) referrals submitted, in order to establish if the referral meets the criteria for a SAR and will then make recommendations to the relevant Safeguarding Adult Board Chair as to whether it should be undertaken.