

7 MINUTE BRIEFING

Safeguarding Adults Reviews



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.

SABs must conduct reviews for adults with care and support needs where there is concern about how professionals worked together to safeguard the adult; and certain criteria are met

2. Criteria for a SAR

Criteria 1 is met if:

a) The adult had died, and b) The SAB knows or suspects that the death resulted from abuse or neglect (this is regardless of whether or it was known about beforehand)

Criteria 2 is met if:

a) adult is still alive, and b) the SAB know or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect. SABs can also arrange discretionary reviews in any other case.

Discretion can be used to undertake a SAR in other situations if a SAB believes that there will be value in doing so, for example in the public interest.

3. Aims of a SAR:

The aim of a SAR is to determine what could have been done differently to prevent serious abuse, neglect, or a death.

A SAR is not undertaken to apportion blame.

A review aims to make recommendations for change and development to promote learning.

Learning should be embedded in practice across agencies to promote best practice in the future.

4. Making a SAR Referral

Any agency, professional, or individual may refer cases for consideration of a SAR.

The case can be referred to the Safeguarding Adults Review group by completing an online [Safeguarding Adult Review Referral Form](#).

The referrals will be shared with the Safeguarding Head of Service to enable background checks and sharing with the Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Review Group.

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 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

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

6. How is a SAR carried out?

If the decision is to proceed with a SAR, an independent author will be appointed to conduct this appropriately.

NB: A SAR is a supportive and reflective process not a scrutiny on practice.

Findings from the review are reported back to the SAB with any recommendations and actions. The SAB then monitors the implementation of actions.

A report which is agreed with the family and is published (where possible).

Learning is shared with the aim to support best practice.

5. Who decides when to hold a SAR

Knowsley referrals are discussed at the Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Review Group (MSARG). The group consists of relevant organisations from Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral.

MSARG discuss if referrals meets the criteria for a SAR and will then make recommendations to the relevant Safeguarding Adult Board Chair to make the decision if a SAR or other review should be undertaken.