




Dudley Safeguarding
People Partnership



Making Good Safeguarding Adult Review Referrals



What is a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)

**A multi-agency
review to identify
lessons that can be
learnt from how
professionals and
their agencies work
together**

**Under the Care Act
each member of the
SAB must co-
operate in and
contribute to the
carrying out of a
review**

**The purpose of a
SAR is not to
apportion blame,
be a primary
investigation
process;
re-investigate a
safeguarding
incident or be a
substitute for a
complaints process**



Things to consider before making a referral:

- Has there been serious abuse/neglect?
- Did or does the person have care and support needs?
- Has there been a concluded enquiry/investigation by an agency? And is there any further learning
- Is there an indication for multi-agency learning



Things to consider before making a referral:



- If there is no identified abuse and neglect and no evidence of multi-agency failure then the referral for a SAR is NOT appropriate to send
- Speak with your Safeguarding Lead or Head of Service for advice

Top tips to consider before you make a referral for a SAR



- ✓ The rationale must be an analysis of the case records not a chronology
- ✓ If there is no multi-agency learning consider if an internal/single agency review is required
- ✓ This process is not an alternative to a complaint
- ✓ Ensure you consult your safeguarding lead if you are unsure
- ✓ It must be signed off and quality assured by a Senior Manager in your agency
- ✓ Consider all of the following points and explain each one



Is there a serious concern about the way in which professionals and services worked together to safeguard the adult

Is there clear evidence of risk of significant harm to an adult that was not recognised or shared by professionals or agencies

Are there serious concerns about how agencies have worked together to prevent, identify, reduce or address a risk of significant harm and may place other adults at risk of significant harm?

Are there actions or omissions in a number of agencies involved in the provision of care, support or safeguarding of an adult that may have caused or be implicated in their harm?

Does one or more professional, agency, family member, carer or advocate consider that their concerns were not taken seriously or acted upon appropriately?

Be clear about what investigation/s: have already been concluded by which agency (e.g. Police/Health, Social Care); and include the outcome

Does the case indicate that there may be operational failings in one or more aspects of the use of the DSPP Policies and Procedures?

Does the case involve serious or systematic organisational abuse from which learning could be transferred to other organisations to prevent such abuse or neglect in the future

Would a SAR enable the DSPP to tackle practice issues before harm arises?

Was there evidence of discrimination?

Is there adverse media interest or serious public concern?



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Scenarios



An example of where the criteria is not met

- An adult sadly passed away, having been found on the floor after falling at night. He was due to have a fall assessment in the months prior to his death, however this had not been coordinated with the adult.
- A family member of the adult had called the service to gather more information as to why he had not been contacted and was informed that the case had been closed.
- The family member believes there could have been neglectful circumstances and would like to make a formal complaint.
- The SAR referral was made without it being signed off by a senior manager or safeguarding lead



An example of where the criteria is met

A 43 year old female with care and support needs suffered physical and psychological harm whilst an in-patient at an acute Hospital. She self-harmed by swallowing a battery.

At the time of this incident, the adult had been medically fit for discharge for 20 days and was kept in an acute hospital bed which was unable to meet her needs. The referral noted neglect by several agencies in acting upon knowledge that the adult was imminently to become homeless and not working together in a timely and effective way to resolve these issues with her homelessness and care package.


How to refer a case for review?



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- Dudley are now be using the West Midlands SAR Referral form
- Please send completed and approved forms to DSPP@dudley.gov.uk

Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Referral Form and Decision Record



This form should be completed to make a SAR referral and forwarded to the relevant Safeguarding Adults Board

Which Board do you want to refer to? Choose an item.

The responsible Safeguarding Adults Board will consider every referral on the basis of whether it meets the Safeguarding Adults Review criteria as stipulated in section 44 of the Care Act 2014 which states:

- (1) A Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) must arrange for there to be a review of a case involving an adult in its area with needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority has been meeting any of those needs) if:
 - a) There is reasonable cause for concern about how the SAB, members of it or other persons with relevant functions worked together to safeguarding the adult

And

 - b) Either of the following conditions are met –
- (2) Condition 1 is met if –
 - a) The adult has died, and
 - b) The SAB knows or suspects that the death resulted from abuse or neglect (whether or not it know about or suspected the abuse or neglect before the adult died)
- (3) Condition 2 is met if –
 - a) The adult is still alive, and
 - b) The SAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.

Further information about Safeguarding Adult Reviews can be found within the local Safeguarding Adults Board protocol and supporting documents.

A SAR will not blame any organisation or person for something that has not worked well. It is not an alternative to a complaint. The SAR process looks at whether any lessons can be learned about the way organisations worked together to support and protect the person who died or suffered harm.

How can I refer a case for review?

- Any professional can make a referral. If you know of a case that meets the SAR criteria then you should first discuss a possible referral with the safeguarding lead for your organisation.
- A member of the public that wishes to make a referral should contact the worker involved with the person's care to discuss the circumstances. The worker will then assess whether there is sufficient evidence to make a referral on their behalf.
- Cases that have the potential for a SAR and notification of any single agency reviews should be referred immediately.
- Referrals should be quality assured and authorised by your agencies Safeguarding Lead or a Senior Manager prior to submission.
- All referrals must be submitted securely. Please contact the local SAB to discuss as required.
- Referrals will be considered for a review and the referrer informed of the outcome.

1