



## When to consider a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Referral

### 1. What is a Safeguarding Adult Review?

- 1.1. Section 44 of the Care Act 2014 requires Local Safeguarding Adult Boards to arrange a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) when an adult in its area dies as a result of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected, and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the person at risk.
- 1.2. A SAR must also be conducted when an adult has not died, but the Board knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse/neglect. In the context of SARs, this would include situations where a person would have been likely to have died but for an intervention, or has suffered permanent harm, or has reduced capacity or quality of life (whether because of physical or psychological effects) as a result of the abuse or neglect.

### 2. Safeguarding Adult Review criteria

- 2.1. Section 44 of the Care Act 2014 states that the Safeguarding Adults Board is the only body that can commission a SAR and it **must** arrange a SAR if:
  - The case involves an adult in the Derbyshire area with care and support needs (whether or not the Local Authority was meeting those needs); and
  - There is reasonable cause for concern about how the Safeguarding Adults Board, its members or other persons with relevant functions worked together to safeguard the adult.

**AND**

  - The person died (including death by suicide) and the 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 person died).

**OR**

  - The person is still alive, but the Safeguarding Adults Board knows or suspects that they have experienced serious abuse or neglect. The DSAB will only consider cases in its area in accordance with its obligations under s.44 of the Care Act 2014.

### 3. When to consider making a SAR referral

3.1. Any practitioner or manager may become aware of a serious incident or death which appears to meet the above SAR criteria. The first step is to discuss the circumstances with your safeguarding lead/manager so that they can decide whether a SAR referral should be made.

3.3. Your safeguarding lead may ask you to provide information for the SAR referral, or ask you to complete the referral form, but they will approve the content and submit it to the DSAB.

### 4. Making referrals to the Safeguarding Adult Reviews Sub-Group

4.1. A SAR referral can be made by any DSAB partner organisation via their safeguarding Lead or Board member.

4.2. The referral should be made using the DSAB [SAR referral form](#), which should be submitted to the DSAB office, email [DerbyshireSAB@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:DerbyshireSAB@derbyshire.gov.uk).

4.3. On receipt of the SAR referral, the SAR Sub-Group Chair will screen the referral and, if required, arrange a meeting with the referrer for a follow up discussion.

4.4. If the referral does not evidence why the SAR criteria have been met, the SAR Sub-Group Chair may ask the referrer for additional information.

4.5. If the referral does not provide sufficient information to justify consideration by the SAR Sub-Group, the referrer will be informed, and the case will not be considered by the SAR Sub-Group.

4.6. If the SAR criteria appear to have been met, the referral will be considered by the SAR Sub-Group at the group's next scheduled meeting, which are held quarterly. The referrer will be asked to attend the meeting to present the referral.

4.7. The SAR referrer will be notified of the outcome of the discussions and whether a SAR is commissioned.

### 5. Where to find information about SARs

5.1. The DSAB website has a [Safeguarding Adult Reviews](#) page, which contains learning resources from Derbyshire SARs as well as the DSAB SAR protocol, and the SAR referral form.

5.2. The [National SAR library](#) contains SARs published by Safeguarding Adult Board across the country.

If you need any further information or support in relation to the SAR process or SAR referrals you can contact the DSAB Board team [DerbyshireSAB@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:DerbyshireSAB@derbyshire.gov.uk)