

Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) Reviews Involving Vulnerable Adults

The Care Act 2014 introduced SARs, which were previously known as Serious Case Reviews, and carrying out these reviews is a statutory requirement for Safeguarding Adult Boards. A Safeguarding Adult Review is a multi-agency process that considers whether or not serious harm experienced by an adult, or group of adults, at risk of abuse or neglect could have been predicted or prevented. The overall purpose of a Safeguarding Adult Review is to promote learning and improve practice, not to re-investigate or to apportion blame.

The decision whether to carry out a SAR is taken by the Safeguarding Adults Review Sub Group, with the agreement of the Independent Chair. You can read more about the BSAB who administer and support these Reviews here:

<http://www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk/safeguarding-adults-board/about-the-bsab/>

A Safeguarding Adults Board must consider a SAR when:

- An adult in its area with needs for care and support (whether or not the Local Authority has been meeting any of those needs) 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 adult.

The SAB must also arrange a SAR if the same circumstances apply where an adult is still alive but has experienced serious neglect or abuse.

The SAB is free to arrange for a SAR in other situations where it believes that there will be value in doing so. This may be where a case can provide useful insights into the way organisations are working together to prevent and reduce abuse and neglect of adults, and can include exploring examples of good practice.

Before a Review can take place, the following steps happen;

- The Chair of the SAR Sub Group receives the SAR Referral Form (available on the Board's website) who will screen the referral and if necessary, contact the referrer for further information.
- If necessary a Scoping Document will be sent out to relevant agencies to complete to provide further information.
- Through a Rapid Review process or via the Sub Group a decision will be made and recommendation presented to the Board Chair as to whether a SAR should go ahead.
- The Board Chair reviews the information and confirms a decision.
- If the decision is to proceed, the Safeguarding Adults Review Sub Group will then commission the Review.
- The Sub Group will consider what format the Review should take. There are a range of options open to the group including; Traditional Safeguarding Adult Review (with Independent Author, Independent Management Reviews and Chronologies), SCIE Model, Management Reviews, Thematic Reviews, Welsh Model, SILP, Root Cause Analysis or Appreciative Enquiry.

When a SAR is underway you may be involved in one of the following roles;

Reports/Chronology

As part of the information gathering process, organisations and agencies will be asked to provide Reports/Chronologies. Those providing the information should be independent of any direct involvement or Line Management of the case under Review. They should be sufficiently senior and be able to challenge existing practice and be credible within the organisation. They should have sufficient knowledge and expertise to objectively analyse their agency's involvement effectively and make suggested required recommendations for change. **Obvious organisational improvement needs and opportunities should be progressed immediately and not delayed for the completion/publication of the SAR Final report.**

Panel Chair

The Chair of the Panel will be a member of the SAR Sub Group. You will work with the Safeguarding Partnership Manager to identify and commission a suitable Independent Author. You will facilitate panel discussions, promoting a culture of self-reflection and feedback to promote learning. You will work closely with the Author to give clear direction & assistance in helping produce a meaningful and accurate report with proportionate and realistic recommendations. You will manage timescales & oversee the creation of an action plan from the report recommendations.

Panel Member

As a Panel member you will represent your organisation or agency as part of a group of professionals, selected in line with the circumstances of the related case. It is vital that you enter the process with an open mind to create an environment of self-reflection, feedback & discussion to promote learning. You will receive the fully collated multi-agency chronology, information about events and consultations with practitioners and draft/final Reports. You will help create an action plan based on the Author recommendations within the final report. **Obvious organisational improvement needs and opportunities identified through the process should be progressed immediately and not delayed for the completion / publication of the SAR Final report.**

Practitioner Event

If a practitioner event is held, you will represent your organisation or agency as part of a group of professionals, selected through involvement in the related case. A key aspect to fully understanding the information gathered is by ensuring those directly involved are given a voice and platform to add context and depth. It is vital that you enter the process with an open mind to create an environment of self-reflection, feedback & discussion to promote learning; **the objective is to improve our service, not blame.**

Independent Author

Each Author may take a different approach but generally there will be an initial information gathering phase which will then be reviewed by the Panel. The Panel will decide how best to engage with practitioners, which may be in large events or small, or even 1:1 conversations. The learning from these will then be reviewed by the Panel, at all stages the overarching SAR Sub Group will oversee progress of the Reviews and receive updates. Dependent on the methodology being used, the Author may also have a role in designing and facilitating learning events and seeking the views of family members. After the events there will be a draft Report which will be shared with Panel members, this will then be crafted into a final Report. The Overview Report should set out the learning, including appropriate and proportionate recommendations for action, and, where agreed, an Executive Summary. This will then be published once any criminal proceedings or inquests are completed

Where Can I Find Reports?

<http://www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk/safeguarding-adults-board/about-the-bsab/safeguarding-adults-reviews/>

What Happens to The Learning?

Actions will be captured, monitored and driven through the SAR Sub Group, the Executive Board and the Independent Chair. The Board will look for evidence that the recommendations have been implemented and have made a positive impact on practice.