



Derby Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB)

Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) Criteria Document

(Section 44 Care act 2014) and when to consider a SAR Referral

What is a Safeguarding Adults Review?

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.

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.

- (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 safeguard 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 knew about or suspected the abuse or neglect before the adult died)
- 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

Each member of the SAB must co-operate in and contribute to the carrying out of the review with a view to:

- c) identifying the lessons to be learnt from the adult's case, and
- d) applying those lessons to future cases

When to consider making a SAR referral

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.

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.

Making referrals to the Safeguarding Adult Reviews Subgroup

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

The referral should be made using the DSAB SAR referral form, which should be submitted to the DSAB office, email DSAB@derby.gov.uk.

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

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

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

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

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

Where to find information about SARs

The DSAB website has a [SARs page Safeguarding Adult Reviews](#), which contains resources to include executive summary reports, learning briefs, SAR protocol, criteria and when to consider a referral, the SAR referral form and information for family, friends and carers.

The National SAR library contains SARs published by Safeguarding Adult Board across the Country <https://nationalnetwork.org.uk/search.html>.

If you need any further information or support in relation to the SAR process or SAR referrals you can contact the DSAB Board team DSAB@derby.gov.uk