

# **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)**

Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) are learning reviews conducted when an adult with care and support needs experiences abuse or neglect and there are concerns about how agencies worked together. Below are some commonly asked questions and answers:

## **1. What is a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR)?**

A SAR is a statutory review conducted under the Care Act 2014 in England. Its purpose is to learn lessons and improve the way organisations work together to prevent harm to adults with care and support needs. It is not about assigning blame but understanding what went wrong and how to improve future practices.

## **2. When is a SAR required?**

A SAR is required if:

- An adult with care and support needs has died due to abuse or neglect, or
- An adult has experienced serious harm due to abuse or neglect,

**and** there is concern about how multiple agencies worked together.

A SAR may also be conducted in other cases where it can provide learning opportunities, even if the criteria are not fully met.

## **3. Who commissions a SAR?**

The **Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)** in the local area where the adult died or experienced serious harm is responsible for commissioning SARs. For Worcestershire this is Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board.

## **4. What is the purpose of a SAR?**

- To identify what went wrong and why.
- To learn lessons to improve multi-agency safeguarding systems.
- To prevent future harm.

The focus is on system improvement, not blaming individuals or agencies.

## **5. How is a SAR conducted?**

SARs vary in approach but typically involve:

- Appointing an Independent Chair/Author for the review
- Reviewing documentation and case files.
- Engaging with the agencies involved.
- Consulting with the adult or their family, where appropriate.
- Producing a report with findings and recommendations.

## **6. What kinds of cases might lead to a SAR?**

Examples include (but not limited to):

- An adult dying after neglect in a care home.
- An adult who was neglecting themselves has died
- Poor communication between agencies leading to harm.

## **7. Who participates in a SAR?**

The review often involves:

- Health and social care services.
- Police and emergency services.
- Housing authorities.
- Any other agencies involved in the adult's care.

## **8. What are the outcomes of a SAR?**

A SAR produces a report that includes:

- A summary of the case.
- Key findings about what went wrong.

Recommendations for improving policies, practices, and training. A Learning Briefing for professionals.

## **9. Are SARs public documents?**

The report will be sent to organisations that have contributed to the review so that they check it is accurate. It will be signed off by WSAB members. It will also be shared with the Coroner.

While the reports may be published, sensitive information is anonymised to protect individuals' identities. Some SARs may not be publicly available, depending on the circumstances.

## **10. How do SARs differ from Serious Case Reviews (SCRs)?**

SARs and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews used to be called Serious Case Reviews. SCR is still used for some reviews such as the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) SCRs.

## **11. How long does a SAR take?**

The duration varies depending on the complexity of the case but typically takes several months to a year.

## **12. What happens if recommendations from a SAR are not followed?**

The Safeguarding Adults Board monitors implementation. If recommendations are not acted upon, agencies may face scrutiny, and the issue could be escalated to regulators or policymakers.

## **13. What is the role of the person concerned and/or their family in a SAR?**

Where possible the SAR should also obtain information from the person, relevant family members and social networks to ensure that the review covers all perspectives. The Safeguarding Adults Board will make contact to ask whether they wish to be involved and if so how. The purpose of the SAR will be explained and the process for engagement will be agreed. A practitioner who has worked with the family may be asked to support the discussion where this may be helpful.

Further Information: We have tried to answer some of the most frequently asked questions you may have about Safeguarding Adult Reviews. If you want to know more about Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board, you can look at our website at: [WSAB - Worcestershire Safeguarding Boards](#)