

Factsheet

What is a Safeguarding Adult Review (often referred to as a SAR).

What is a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR)?

The statutory guidance for the [Care Act 2014 \(section 44\)](#) states that Safeguarding Adults Boards **must** arrange a 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 adult. **Care Act, S44 (1) & (2)**
- An **adult in its area has not died**, but the SAB know or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect. In the context of SARs, something can be considered serious abuse or neglect where, for example the individual 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. **Care Act, S44 (1) & (3)**
- **SABs are free to arrange for a SAR in any other situations** involving an adult in its area with needs for care and support. Please note that informal carers should be included for consideration. **Care Act, S44 (4)**

The SAR process is about looking back at a situation to understand if there is learning which can improve safeguarding practice in the future.

Please note – if you are worried about an adult because they may be experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect and may be unable to protect themselves, please contact [Adult Social Care](#) to report your concerns.

Concerns about abuse or neglect of an adult at risk can be reported to Adult Social Care via the [online portal](#) or by telephoning **0161 206 0604**. **Adult Social Care operates between 8.30 and 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays)**. If you need to speak to someone outside of these times, please contact the Emergency Duty Team on 0161 794 8888.

We have created some [guidance on how to make a safeguarding referral](#) via the online portal.

Who should be involved in the SAR process

The Care Act specifies that each member of the Board must co-operate in and contribute to the carrying out of a review Care Act, S44 (5). This includes partner agencies from across the wider partnership and providers.

Purpose of a SAR

Learning lessons SARs should seek to determine what the relevant agencies and individuals involved with the adult might have done differently that could have

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prevented harm or death. This is so that lessons can be learned from the circumstances of the adult and those lessons applied to future cases to prevent similar harm occurring again.

It is vital, if individuals and organisations are to be able to learn lessons from the past, that reviews are trusted and safe experiences that encourage honesty, transparency and sharing of information to obtain maximum benefit from them. If individuals and their organisations are fearful of SARs their response will be defensive, and their participation guarded and partial.

Its purpose is **not** to hold any individual or organisation to account. Other processes exist for that, including criminal proceedings, disciplinary procedures, employment law and systems of service and professional regulation, such as Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the Health and Care Professions Council, and the General Medical Council

Salford Safeguarding Adults Board has a SAR panel which is a sub group of the SSAB, it meets monthly to consider all SAR referrals.

Who can make a referral and how

Any agency can make a referral for a SAR if they identify an adult where they believe that the criteria for a SAR are met.

Requests for a SAR must be made in writing using the [referral form](#), which should be completed as fully as possible and returned to Salford Safeguarding Adults Board on the SAR email address - **SAR.referrals@salford.gov.uk**.

Where a professional or volunteer working for an agency has identified a possible SAR referral, the circumstances of the adult should be considered internally within the organisation at the appropriate level. Each agency/organisation needs to decide how any SAR referral will be verified internally before the referral is made to the Safeguarding Adults Board. This process should be clearly communicated to staff and noted in any single agency Safeguarding Adult Policy.

What happens next

The Business Manager for the Safeguarding Adult Board will start the screening process, if it's felt that the adult needs to be considered at the SAR panel then single agency information will be requested from all agencies involved in the process.

Once all the information is received this will create a combined chronology which will be presented to the members of the SAR Panel which is where a decision is made to whether the criteria has been met.

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For further information regarding the process from Referral to Decision Making please refer to the [Overview of the Salford SAR Process – Referral to Decision Making](#)

Sharing Information for the SAR process

If a Safeguarding Adult Board requests a person to supply information to it, or to some other person specified in the request, this can be shared under the [Care Act 2014 S45 – Supply of information](#).

What you need to know if your invited to be a part of the review?

You should not be concerned; this process is about learning not blame.

For an overview of the how the SAR process is managed please refer to the following documents.

[Overview of SAR process – Decision to Completion](#)

For further information, please refer to the [Salford Safeguarding Adults Review \(SAR\) Policy and Procedures](#)

If you wish to discuss the contents of this factsheet, please do not hesitate to contact Salford Safeguarding Adult Board (SSAB).

Contact details for the Salford Safeguarding Adult Board (SSAB)

Salford Safeguarding Adults Board

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