

# Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Sub-Group

## Information for Families and Carers



This information is for families and carers and explains what happens when a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) referral is made to the Northumberland Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnership (NCASP), what to expect, and who you can contact.

### WHAT IS A SAR?

Under the Care Act (2014), when an adult who needs care and support either dies or suffers serious harm, and when abuse or neglect is thought to have been a factor, the Safeguarding Adults Board may need to review what has happened. This is called a Safeguarding Adults Review or SAR. These reviews are undertaken to find out if any lessons can be learned about the way organisations have worked to support and protect the person who suffered harm.

### What is the SARG?

The Safeguarding Adult Review Group (SARG) is a sub-group of the safeguarding partnership which brings together all the main organisations who work with adults who have care and support needs and as a result of those needs, may be unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect – this is referred to as an ‘adult at risk’. It is the responsibility of the SARG to consider SAR referrals.

### Who attends the SARG?

The SARG is a multi-agency group attended by representatives/professionals from both statutory and non-statutory organisations and includes Adult Social Care, Police, Health Services and other organisations.

### What does the SARG do?

The SARG is responsible for considering referrals made to NCASP by any agency/organisation. Their role is to decide about whether the referral meets the criteria for a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) to be undertaken and make a recommendation to NCASP about what the partnership needs to do next.

***(Please note – separate information is available which outlines the SAR process. This will be shared with you should a SAR be required)***

### WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE OUTCOMES FROM A REFERRAL TO THE SAR SUB-GROUP?

Please see below possible outcomes:

SAR	Other Review/Action	No Action Required
Mandatory criteria are met OR Discretionary criteria are met	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other review process is appropriate (e.g. LEDER)</li> <li>Single-agency action</li> <li>Assurance sought on issue/action</li> </ul>	The criteria are not met, and no further action is to be taken by NCASP

Not all referrals will result in a SAR being required, however, it may be decided that another form of review should be undertaken. The SARG will consider the various options and decide on the most appropriate approach, depending on the circumstances and learning.

It is important to note that a SAR or other type of Learning Review will not seek to lay blame but to consider what can be learned and what could have been done differently. Reviews will recommend actions to improve multi-agency arrangements to keep adults with care and support needs safe from abuse or neglect in the future.

## IF A SAR IS AGREED, CAN OTHER REVIEWS TAKE PLACE AT THE SAME TIME?

Yes. There are a number of review processes which can run parallel to a SAR such as:

- Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's)
- Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (SPR's)
- LeDeR Review (Learning from Lives and Death of people with learning disability and autistic people)
- MAPPA Serious Case Review
- NHS Patient Safety Incident Response Framework

If you require further information about these reviews, please contact the Adults Business Manager (details below).

## What types of investigations may also be undertaken?

SARs and Learning Reviews **are not** investigations and will not replace the role of the Police or Coroner. For further information on these investigations and processes please see below:

### Coroner investigations/processes

- It is the role of the Coroner to investigate unexplained deaths.
- The government have published a guide for bereaved people. The guide includes information about coroner investigation and inquest processes, as well as useful links to services which provide help and support.

**[Please click here for the Guide to Coroner's Services.](#)**

- For local information please contact:  
Northumberland Coroner Service  
Telephone: 01670 622 600  
e-mail: [coroners@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:coroners@northumberland.gov.uk)  
Or visit **[Northumberland Coroner's Service](#)**

### Police / Criminal Investigation

- The College of Policing provides further information about the investigation process: (click link below)  
**[Investigation | College of Policing](#)**
- For local information please contact:  
Northumbria Police: (click link below)  
**[Home : Northumbria Police](#)**

**For further information and support about the SARG and safeguarding adult reviews you can contact the NCASP Safeguarding Adults Business Manager:**

Emma Beniams  
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