

# 7 Minute Briefing: Making SAR Referrals

## Links:

- [SAR Referral Form](#)
- [Walsall Safeguarding Partnership – published SAR reports](#)
- [Recent newsletter on learning reviews](#)

1) A safeguarding adult review (SAR) is a multi-agency review to determine what agencies involved could have done differently to prevent abuse/neglect or a death from taking place.

The aim is not to assign blame – it is to promote learning & development, to prevent further incidents from occurring and improve the way agencies work together

## 2) SARs are undertaken when:

- There is cause for concern about how agencies worked together to safeguard an adult; and
- The adult has died, & WSP knows/suspects that the death resulted from abuse or neglect or
- The adult is still alive, & WSP knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.

**An SAB may arrange for there to be a review of any other 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) where it feels there is relevant learning to be gained.**



## 6 How reviews are carried out

- SARs are written by an independent reviewer with specialist skills & knowledge.
- Terms of reference are recommended by the WSP and agreed with the reviewer.
- All agencies involved contribute providing information of their involvement & take part in multi-agency meetings.
- The draft report & action plan are created by the reviewer & signed off by WSP, before being published.

## 5) What happens next?

- If it meets criteria agencies involved will be asked to provide scoping information regarding their involvement.

- This information will be reviewed by the partnership and a decision will be made whether to progress to a review.

- If it doesn't meet criteria the referrer will be notified and another course of action may be agreed e.g. single agency review.

## 3 What difference do SARs Make?

- SAR recommendations are used to agree an action plan to make changes or improvements to services to reduce the risk of future harm.

- Action plans are agreed and monitored to make improvements.

- Learning from the review is communicated with partners.

## 4) Making a Referral

- The individual/agency should complete the SAR referral form with as much information about the case as possible, including identifying the issues or areas of concern which it wants the partnership to consider.
- Prior to making a referral the practitioner should discuss it with their agency safeguarding lead and/or their member of the Practice Review Subgroup.
- Email the form to [safeguardingbusinessunit@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingbusinessunit@walsall.gov.uk)

- It will be reviewed by the Business Unit Manager and shared with the Independent Chair and Chair of the Practice Review Subgroup.

- A decision about how to progress will be made and the referrer will be notified. More information may be requested if required.