

The Care Act 2014

Section 44 of the Care Act places a responsibility on Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) to conduct Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs). SABs **must** arrange a SAR when an adult in its area dies as a result of abuse or neglect and, there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively together. This also applies to cases where a person has not died but has experienced serious abuse or neglect.

What is a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR)?

SARs seek to determine what could have been done differently in a case which could have prevented the harm or death of an adult.

A Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) is a multi-agency learning process which considers:

- Why and how the serious abuse or neglect happened
- What could have been done to prevent the abuse or neglect happening
- If partners could have worked together differently to protect the adult from abuse or neglect which led to the death or serious harm of an adult with care and support needs

The aim of the process is to learn lessons and make improvements, rather than blaming individual people or organisations. This learning process supports the following;

- Services to improve
- Professionals to better understand how we can work together to protect vulnerable adults in the future
- To act on learning
- To improve local multi-agency practice
- To highlight good practice which can be shared with others

Cumbria Safeguarding Adults Board (CSAB) - SAR sub group

Cumbria's SAR sub group is chaired by Detective Superintendent Vicki Ellis from Cumbria Constabulary.

The sub group which meet bi-monthly includes membership from; Cumbria County Council, Cumbria Police, National Probation Service, Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS Hospital Trusts and Her Majesty's Prison Service.

The purpose of the SAR sub group is;

- To consider referrals made for a SAR in line with statutory guidance and make recommendation to the CSAB Independent Chair.
- Where a review is required consider the most appropriate methodology and approach for the SAR.
- To utilise learning from SARs in order to improve services and multi-agency working for adults and risk and their families.



SAR guidance



CSAB has reflected on and taken learning from recent SARs and have agreed a revised process to improve governance and management of SARs in Cumbria.

The [revised SAR guidance](#) is available on the CSAB website along with a new SAR referral form.

This guidance sets out the criteria where a referral for a SAR would be appropriate and the process for making a referral to CSAB.

Get in touch!

If you would like to speak with someone about the work of the Cumbria Safeguarding Adults Board please contact:

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