

## 7 Point Briefing – A Guide to Safeguarding Adult Reviews



The Hull Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (HSAPB) has produced this 7-point briefing to explain what a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) is and how the process works. The aim of a SAR is to ensure learning is identified to improve our safeguarding response to adults at risk. In Hull, we are committed to ensuring best possible practice through adopting a multi-agency approach and a culture of openness and learning.



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### What is a Safeguarding Adult Review?

Commissioning a SAR is a statutory responsibility of the HSAPB under Section 44 of the Care Act. A SAR is a multi-agency review of an individual case which fits the following criteria:

**The case involves an adult with needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority has been meeting any of those needs) AND:**

- (a) There is reasonable cause for concern about how the SAB, members of it or other persons with relevant functions worked together to safeguard the adult, AND
- (b) Condition 1 or 2 is met.

### (2) Condition 1 is met if:

- (a) The adult has died, AND
- (b) The SAB knows or suspects that the death resulted from abuse or neglect (whether or not it knew about or suspected the abuse or neglect before the adult died).

### (3) Condition 2 is met if:

- (a) The adult is still alive, AND
- (b) The SAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.

The HSAPB Panel meets on a regular basis to consider all SAR referrals. The HSAPB Panel is a multiagency group with senior representatives from Hull City Council, Humberside Police, Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the HSAPB. The Panel reviews all SAR referrals and determines if they meet the threshold for commissioning a SAR.

**It is important to note that the aim of a review is to learn lessons and make improvements, not to apportion blame to individual people or organisations. If culpability is an issue, organisational processes are in place to deal with this.**

A SAR is therefore about promoting effective learning and improvement to prevent future deaths or serious harm from occurring again. It relies on a spirit of openness, candour and transparency from the agencies involved to learn what went well, as well as what could be improved. The process is based on national guidelines and our methodologies are agreed by HSAPB and all agencies who are members.

Further information on SAR's can be found [here](#)

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### How do I make a referral if I feel a case may fit the criteria?

If you have a case which you think meets the SAR criteria you should make a referral to the HSAPB [safeguardingadultsboard@hulcc.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingadultsboard@hulcc.gov.uk) using the HSAPB Referral Form. You will need to give the circumstances and detail why you think it may meet the SAR criteria.

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### What is the SAR process, and who is involved?

Once a SAR is commissioned several methodologies can be used to gather and process the information needed to complete the review.

- i. An independent author may be commissioned to carry out the SAR.
- ii. Alternatively, the SAR may be carried out locally as a Learning Review (Line-of-Sight Review). This process reviews each agencies/organisations involvement with an individual, and through multi-agency analysis seeks to identify learning points and themes. It is an opportunity to reflect on the events that happened and consider what, if anything, could have been done differently. It is also an opportunity to discuss the rationale behind practice processes and decisions.
- iii. The HSAPB Panel may commission a discretionary piece of work, including audits that focus on a specific issue or service.

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### What is a Line of Sight (LOS)?

Where the criteria for a full SAR is not met the Care Act 2014 (sec44) and Working Together 2023 give Safeguarding Adult Boards (SAB's) flexibility to undertake discretionary learning.

The LOS process is the HSAPB's method of doing this. Through audits, multi-agency analysis and reflective practice the LOS process examines organisations interactions with an adult at risk. Good and bad practice is identified and disseminated across the partnership. Where appropriate learning needs are identified and appropriate training. Further information can be found [here](#)

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### How long will the SAR take?

The SAR should be completed within 6 months of the decision to commence a SAR. Sometimes this timescale needs to be extended.

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### How are families involved?

Families, close friends and carers (where relevant and appropriate) are given the opportunity to meet with representatives of those undertaking the SAR. This is to hear further details and updates about the review, ask questions and provide family history and context.

When the review is complete a follow-on meeting is offered to outline the findings and recommendations of the SAR. Families will also be provided with a copy of the executive summary. Further information for families can be found [here](#)

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### What happens once the SAR is completed?

Once a SAR is completed and has been accepted by the HSAPB, the recommendations are agreed and recorded in a SAR Action Plan. Organisations/agencies given ownership of a Recommendation are responsible for its completion in the timeframe given. Progress is monitored by the HSAPB Board. Details of completed SAR's can be found [here](#)