



## Safeguarding Adult Review Referral Guidance

This guidance is to help you consider when you should refer a case to the Newham Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) for it to be considered for a Safeguarding Adults Review. Any individual as well as statutory and non-statutory agencies working with adults with care and support needs in the London Borough of Newham.

This guidance covers:

[What is a Safeguarding Adults Review?](#)

[When is a SAR required?](#)

[Who can make a referral for a SAR?](#)

[When should a SAR referral be considered?](#)

[How do you make a referral?](#)

[What happened next?](#)

### **What is a Safeguarding Adults Review?**

A Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) is a multi-agency learning process. The aim of a SAR is to 'promote effective learning and improvement action to prevent future deaths or serious harm occurring again'. The aim is that lessons can be learned from the case and for those lessons to be applied to future cases to prevent similar harm re-occurring.

### **When is a SAR required?**

Newham SAB *must* arrange a SAR when:

There is reasonable cause for concern about how the SAB, members of it, or other local professionals and/or services worked together to safeguard an adult with care and support needs (regardless of whether the local authority was meeting any of those needs) who:

- Has died (including from suicide) and the SAB knows or suspects that the death resulted from abuse or neglect (regardless of whether or not it knew or suspected the abuse or neglect before the person died);  
**or**
- Is still alive, and the SAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.

Something can be considered serious abuse or neglect where, for example, the person was likely to have died but for an intervention, or 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.

The SAB *may* also arrange a SAR in other circumstances involving an adult with needs for care and support in its areas where it feels it would be useful, including learning from “near misses” and situations where the arrangements worked especially well.

The SAB *may* also arrange a Case Review in other circumstances involving an adult with needs for care and support in its areas where it feels it would be useful.

### **Who can make a referral for a SAR?**

Any agency or individual professional can make a SAR referral for a case to be considered as a SAR using the SAR Referral Form.

### **When should a SAR referral be considered?**

You should consider making a SAR referral when you have reasonable concerns that an adult with care and support needs is known/suspected to have experienced abuse or neglect and you believe that:

- The requirements above are met

### ***Or, you believe that one or more of the following may have occurred:***

- Agencies or professionals in contact with the adult at risk or the person alleged to be causing neglect or harm did not recognise or respond appropriately to the abuse or neglect
- Serious or apparently systematic abuse is taking or took place in an institutional setting
- Multiple suspected abusers are involved

***(This list is not exhaustive.)***

Staff or volunteers who think that serious abuse or neglect is taking or has taken place should discuss this with their manager and/or local adult safeguarding lead.

Managers and leads should be aware of the criteria for implementing a SAR. A decision must be made as to whether the case should be referred for a SAR.

Staff will usually find it helpful to discuss their concerns with their agency’s representative on the SAB.

If your agency is not directly involved with the SAB you may find it helpful to discuss the case with the SAB agency that you are directly involved with or the Safeguarding Adults Board Manager [nsab@newham.gov.uk](mailto:nsab@newham.gov.uk) - If in doubt, refer.

If you decide that a SAR referral should be made, then your organisation’s relevant manager should make sure that this is done.

Organisations should consider including an appropriate trigger question or section in their internal procedures that will prompt them to consider if a SAR referral should be made. For example: in internal incident and investigation reporting processes; in adult safeguarding concern reporting procedures; in whistleblowing processes; in associated forms and report templates; in ‘section 42 enquiry’ processes.

**How do you make a referral?**

Complete the SAR Referral form available on the [NSAB website](#) with as much detail as possible and send it securely to the SAB Business Manager [nsab@newham.gov.uk](mailto:nsab@newham.gov.uk)

**What happened next?**

NSAB and the independent NSAB Chair will consider the referral and decide if it meets the SAR criteria or not and what steps to take next. You will be advised in writing on what is decided.

For more information, please refer to:

- [Care and Support Statutory Guidance \(para. 14.162 – 14.179\), October 2018](#)
- [s.44 Care Act 2014 \(s.44\)](#)
- [London Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Policy & Procedures April 2019](#)