



## **Safeguarding Adult Review Referral Guidance**

This guidance is to help you consider when you should refer an individual or group of individuals to the Newham Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) to be considered for a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR). Please note there are separate SAR referral forms for members of the public, professionals or volunteers and Newham Council Adult Social Care.

### **This guidance covers:**

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### **Introduction to Safeguarding Adults Board.**

The NSAB is a multi-agency partnership of statutory and non-statutory partners working together to safeguard adults at risk of abuse and neglect. The Care Act 2014 sets out the legal duty of cooperation by all public organisations to form a SAB, which is responsible for leading and overseeing all safeguarding activities within its locality. The **NSAB** has three core duties that are essential to its function and effectiveness in safeguarding adults: **Publish a Strategic Plan; Publish an Annual Report; Conduct Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs).**

## **What is a SAR?**

A 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'. By conducting SARs, the NSAB ensures that safeguarding practices are continually reviewed and enhanced to better protect vulnerable adults in the future.

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

NSAB *must* arrange a SAR when:

There is reasonable cause for concern about how the NSAB, 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 NSAB 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 NSAB 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 NSAB *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, individual, volunteer or professional can submit a referral 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 designated adult safeguarding lead. Staff will usually find it helpful to discuss their concerns with their agency's representative on the SAB. A decision must be made as to whether the case should be referred for a SAR.

If your agency is not directly involved with the NSAB you may find it helpful to have a discussion with the NSAB agency that you are directly involved with or the Safeguarding Adults Board Manager [nsab@newham.gov.uk](mailto:nsab@newham.gov.uk).

If you decide that a SAR referral should be made, you must discuss this with your organisation's relevant adult safeguarding lead who should support you and ensure this is complete.

### **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 happens next?**

The 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 of NSABs decision.

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](#)