

Tools to support SABs achieve the SAR Quality Markers

Tool A – decision tool provided by South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership (STSCAP)

A **Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)** is a process for all partner agencies to identify the lessons that can be learned from particularly complex or serious safeguarding adult cases, where an adult in vulnerable circumstances has died or been seriously injured, and abuse or neglect has been suspected. As a result of a detailed review, recommendations are made to change or improve practice and services.

The aim of the process is to learn lessons and make improvements, not to apportion blame to individual people or organisations.

A SAR is about promoting effective learning and improvement to prevent future deaths or serious harm occurring again. It relies on a spirit of openness to learning about what went well, as well as what could be improved. The process is based on national guidelines and has been agreed by all agencies who are members of the South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership (STSCAP).

Criteria for a SAR: the South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership (STSCAP) must arrange a Safeguarding Adults Review when either of these criteria are met:

a) An adult with care and support needs* (whether or not those needs are met by the Local Authority) in the STSCAP area has died as a result of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked together more effectively to protect the adult, or...

b) An adult with care and support needs (whether or not those needs are met by the local authority) in the STSCAP area has not died, but the STSCAP knows or suspects the adult has experienced serious** abuse or neglect and there is concern the partner agencies could have worked together more effectively to protect the individual, or...

c) The STSCAP has discretion to undertake a SAR in other situations where it believes that there will be value in doing so. This may be where a case can provide useful insights into the way organisations are working together to prevent and reduce abuse and neglect of adults, and can include exploring examples of good practice, or...

d) The STSCAP can also consider conducting a SAR into any incident(s) or case(s) involving adults(s) at risk of abuse or neglect where it is believed to be in the public interest to conduct such a review.

* Care and support needs arise as a result of a physical or mental impairment and are focused on providing assistance with activities of daily living, maintaining independence, social interaction, enabling the individual to play a fuller part in society, protecting them in vulnerable situations, helping them to manage complex relationships and (in some circumstances) accessing a care home or other supported accommodation.

** In the context of SARs, something can be considered serious abuse or neglect where, for example, the individual would have been likely to have died but for an intervention or has suffered permanent harm or had reduced capacity or quality of life (whether because of physical or psychological effects) as a result of the abuse or neglect.



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