What is a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR)?

The Care Act 2014 introduced the Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) process which replaces and widens the remit of the previous Serious Case Review.

The purpose of a SAR is to:

- Promote effective learning and identify improvement with the aim to prevent future deaths or serious harm occurring again.
- Develop insights into the way organisations are working together to prevent and reduce abuse and neglect of adults.
- To explore examples of good practice where this is likely to identify lessons that can be applied to future cases.

It is important to note that the SAR process provides a framework to identify service improvements on a multi-agency basis. This is a transparent and positive process through which the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) can demonstrate service improvement—it is not a process used to apportion blame.

When is a SAR needed?

SAR Criteria:

The Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Adults Board (TWSAB) must undertake a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) when:

- an adult in its area dies as a result of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected, and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult

- If an adult in its area has not died, but 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 individual would have been likely to have died but for an intervention,

Or

has 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 criteria for a SAR is much wider than the previous Serious Case Review, giving the Board more opportunity to explore and learn from cases regardless of the care and support being provided or the outcome of the case.

- The Board will consider a SAR in any other situations involving an adult in its area with needs for care and support—it does not matter if the individual concerned receives care and support services—they just need to have care and support needs.
How to request a SAR

Anybody can make a request for a SAR. If you are aware of a case which meets any of the criteria shown on page 1 you can request a SAR as follows:-

1. Complete a SAR Request Form available at the following link:-

2. Return your completed form to the following email address: partnerships@telford.gov.uk

What happens next?

The SAR request will be considered by the Chair of the SAB who will confirm with you directly whether your request has been accepted or not. In either case, the reason for the decision will be given.

If your request is accepted, then a panel made up of members of the Safeguarding Adults Board will be established to agree the scope and involvement in the SAR process ensuring that the process is proportionate to the risk presented and involves all relevant agencies. You may be asked to attend the first meeting to give an overview of your request.

As part of the SAR process, a learning plan will be developed and implemented with progress being reported back to the Safeguarding Adult Board to provide assurance that lessons have been learned wherever relevant.

Please remember.....

- If you are aware of a case where you feel there are lessons to be learned but are not sure whether it meets the SAR criteria, please complete a request as the Board will consider all cases and decide whether it is relevant or not.
- It does not matter if the individual concerned receives care and support services—they just need to have care and support needs.
- The Board would rather receive requests for potential SARs and be given the opportunity to learn lessons than have to deal with the consequences of identifying areas for development/learning after a more serious incident.

This is a summary briefing—for further information, please refer to the full SAR Policy and Procedure available at the following link:-
http://www.telfordsafeguardingadultsboard.org/sab/info/1/home/4/information_for_professionals_carers_and_health_workers