

Portsmouth Safeguarding Adults Board



One Minute Guide

Safeguarding Adults Reviews: Referrals

What is a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)?

Safeguarding Adults Boards are required by the Care Act 2014 to carry out a Safeguarding Adult Review when an adult at risk in their area has been seriously harmed or has died, and abuse or neglect is suspected, and there are lessons to be learnt about how organisations have worked together to prevent similar deaths or injuries happening in the future. Safeguarding Adult Reviews look at how local organisations have worked together to provide services to the adult(s) at risk. A Safeguarding Adult Review is completely separate from any investigation being undertaken by the Police or Coroner. It is not a means of apportioning blame or responsibility for what has happened.

The Portsmouth Safeguarding Adults Board (PSAB) is keen to encourage all staff who work with adults at risk to make SAR referrals in all cases when they think the above criteria may have been met. SAR referrals help the PSAB to ensure lessons are learnt and that organisations continually review and improve their practice and how they work together. It also helps us to identify early on any failings that may be systemic or large-scale.

How do I make a referral?

You can download the referral form from the PSAB website. Please complete it as fully as possible and send the completed form to psab@portsmouthcc.gov.uk.

Who can make a referral?

Anyone can make a referral, including a member of the public. However, please discuss your referral with your manager or your organisation's safeguarding team/lead first.

What happens next?

All referrals are reviewed carefully by the SAR sub-group of the PSAB. More information will be requested from agencies involved in the case (such as a detailed chronology of their contact with the person who has been harmed). The sub-group will then make a decision on whether the criteria for commissioning a SAR have been met. If they have, the Board will proceed to undertake a SAR. If the criteria have not been met, the Board may decide to undertake other forms of learning and review, such as a multi-agency reflective practice workshop. The Board Manager will contact you to let you know the outcome of your referral.

How is a SAR referral different from a safeguarding referral?

The SAR process is about learning lessons about harm which has already occurred so that it can be prevented in future. The PSAB does not safeguard individuals or investigate current concerns. If you have current concerns about an adult at risk, you need to make a referral to the Adult Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) by emailing PortsmouthAdultMASH@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or phoning 023 9268 0810. The referral form for a current concern is available on our website <http://www.portsmouthsab.uk/reporting-concerns/>.

Where can I get more information?

More information about SARs (including the referral form) is available on the PSAB website <http://www.portsmouthsab.uk/scrs-2/>.