

## 1. What is a SAR?

A **Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)** is a statutory requirement in legislation, Care Act 2014. Safeguarding Adults Boards have a responsibility to conduct SARs in instances where it is evident abuse and or neglect has occurred, and the person has died, with evidence of multi-agency working which could have been improved. SARs can also be initiated in instances where the person has not died, but serious harm has occurred.

The purpose of a SAR is to:

Identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults at risk.

Identify systemic issues, changes to policy and practice, and to identify areas of self-improvement.

It's also to determine what could have been done differently to prevent serious abuse, neglect or a death.

**They are not conducted to hold individuals, organisations or agencies to account.**

## 2. Paul & James

Paul and James had complex needs relating to mental health, physical health, substance use, and dual diagnosis. They both experienced self neglect, hoarding tendencies, and were 'hard to reach' individuals.

Paul and James had multi-disciplinary professionals involved in their care resulting in key themes emerging from their review, including barriers to service, mental capacity, dual diagnosis, multi-agency risk management, professional curiosity, missed opportunities, family engagement, and the impact of COVID-19.

[Safeguarding Adults Reviews](#)

## 3. Barriers

Barriers to service engagement comes in different forms including practical, emotional, and social barriers.

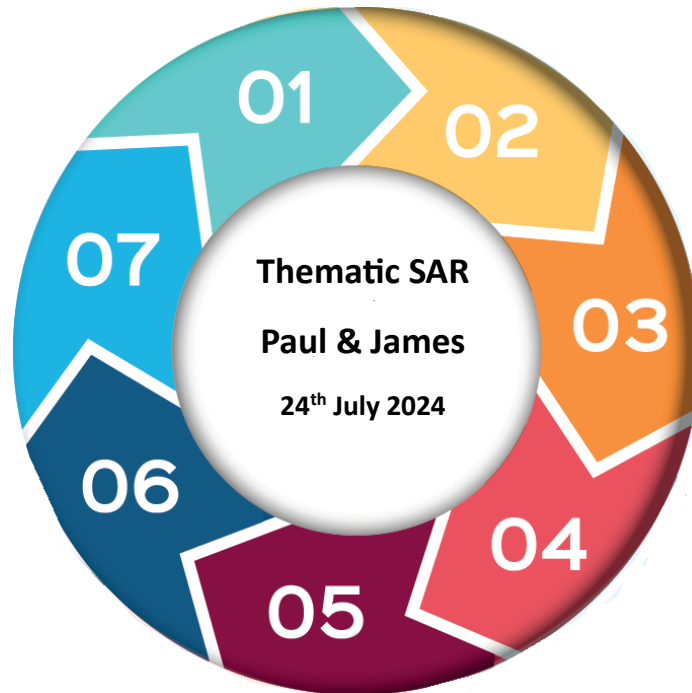
This can include individuals feeling:

- Embarrassment
- Guilt
- Fear
- Mistrust of services

Individual's lived experience – such as military service – can impact someone's likelihood of reaching out for support.

Stigma can impact professionals and adults accessing services. E.g. when drug and alcohol addiction is regarded as a 'lifestyle choice'.

Methods of assessment can also increase and reduce barriers. E.g. telephone assessments can make it difficult to fully build trust and identify a person's true needs.



### Thematic SAR

### Paul & James

24<sup>th</sup> July 2024

## 7. Resources

[How to use legal powers to safeguard highly vulnerable dependent drinkers](#)

[The Blue Light Project – Alcohol Change UK](#)

[The Blue Light Manual](#)

[Liverpool Safeguarding Adults Board Hoarding Protocol](#)

[MARAM – Liverpool City Council Guidance. Veterans HQ](#)

[Learning from Tragedies](#)

## 6. MARAM

MARAM is our local process established following learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews.

**Any professional, from any agency can identify risk and complete the generic risk assessment.**

MARAM is used in situations where there is concern that the individual's lifestyle or behaviour is likely to result in serious harm, or even death and a multi-agency approach is required to effectively manage risk.

MARAM is for service users who are considered to be high intensity who may engage in risky behaviours that **are not captured by other safeguarding processes.**

## 5. Good Practice

Maintain professional curiosity

- Who?
- What?
- Why?
- When?
- Where?

Professionals have a responsibility when working with adults at risk to find out about the issues that they are experiencing – e.g. dual diagnosis, and addiction.

Remember that lack of engagement does not negate need.

Self-neglect and hoarding issues should always be addressed – regardless of how the person has come to neglect themselves. E.g. substance addiction, or a decline in their mental health.

## 4. Capacity & Duty of Care

Professionals should prioritise working in partnership to establish the adult's needs and consider advocacy and family support to help people express their wishes, rights, and desired support.

Individuals **can** refuse support, but professionals should utilise the law where concerns persist.

**[Section 11 Care Act 2014:](#)**

If an adult refuses an assessment of care and support, it must still be carried out if:

The adult is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect – including self-neglect.

The adult lacks capacity to refuse assessment and it's believed to be in the individual's best interests to receive an assessment.



Liverpool  
Safeguarding  
Adults Board