

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. June

June was an older white British woman who had a diagnosis of Dementia. June resided with family, and concerns were raised by neighbours for June's welfare. This led to the Police attending the property to complete a welfare check, which led to June being taken to hospital. Referrals were made to Children's and Adult Social Care who visited the property. June was found living in 'squalid' conditions, left without appropriate equipment to meet her needs and experiencing significant cognitive decline. A GP visited June and arranged for her to be taken into hospital. June's circumstances were reviewed annually by Adult Social Care, but wasn't seen regularly; she also had other multi-disciplinary professionals involved in her care, such as Podiatry Services, and Phlebotomy. Key themes emerging from her review include: capturing the voice of the adult, informal carer breakdown, professional curiosity and application of the Mental Capacity Act.

[Safeguarding Adults Reviews](#)

3. The Voice of the Adult

Assessments should be person-centred; keeping the individual at the centre of their own experience.

The adult's voice and perspective should frame the narrative that is collated.

Advocacy should be considered during the assessment process when someone is assessed as lacking capacity.

Under the Care Act 2014, the Local Authority must appoint an Independent Advocate when it is carrying out certain statutory functions with an adult (or carer) that they believe will find it difficult to engage with the process.

Remember, Advocates should be appropriate to carry out the role – be wary of capturing assumptions or taking family members views as the adult's own.



7. Resources

[MARAM – Liverpool City Council Guidance](#)

[Support for Carers](#)

[Local Solutions – Carers Centre, Liverpool](#)

[Care Act 2014: Care and Support Guidance](#)

[Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice](#)

6. Mental Capacity

Mental capacity assessments should be used when there are concerns that an individual lacks capacity to make a specific decision.

The decision that you're asking someone to make should be clear. E.g. capacity to consent to an assessment.

Drawn upon the 5 Principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005:

- Assume capacity
- Practical steps
- Unwise decisions
- Least restrictive
- Best Interests

It should not be assumed that someone lacks capacity, even if they have previously been assessed as lacking capacity.

Capacity is fluid, and can fluctuate dependent upon the day and time that someone is assessed.

5. Abuse and Neglect of Older People

Abuse and neglect of older people can have serious impacts upon someone's physical and mental health, financial situation, and social and emotional wellbeing.

This can include:

- physical injuries
- premature mortality
- depression
- cognitive decline
- financial difficulties
- premature placement into care.

Where concerns are raised around the treatment, care, or wellbeing of an individual, always consider how best to support the person, are multi-agency discussions needed? Does a safeguarding concern need to be considered? Would a MARAM framework support the risk assessment process?

4. Carer Breakdown

The Care Act 2014 sets out our legal obligation towards Carers (s.10).

Anyone who is looking after another adult with care and support needs has the right to a carer's assessment.

Carers assessments should address the carers' mental and physical health, their ability and willingness to care, and their relationships with others.

Carers assessments should be regularly reviewed and have contingency plans documented providing advice to carers on how they can:

- Identify that needs are escalating
- Meet those needs safely
- Access timely and targeted support in periods when needs escalate



Liverpool
**Safeguarding
Adults Board**