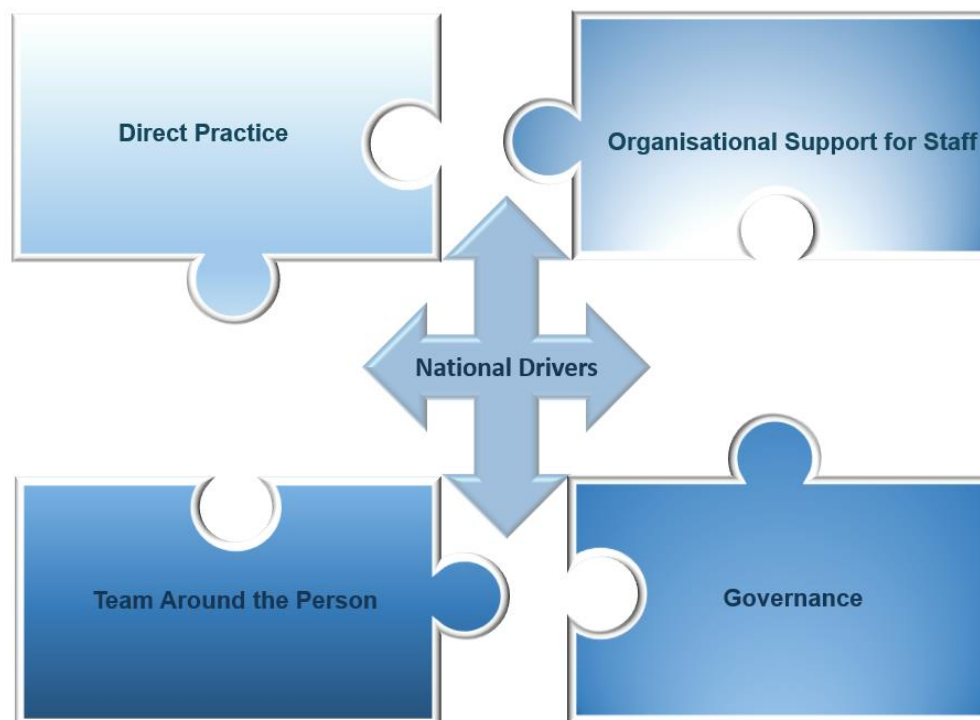


Improving and Measuring the Impact from Safeguarding Adults Reviews

A toolkit to support sector-led improvement



Contents

Acknowledgements	3
About this toolkit	4
Improving and Measuring the Impact from SARs	5
The Four Domains – An illustration for Safeguarding Adult Boards	6
Assessment and Audits	7
Partner Self-Assessments	8
Multi-Agency Audits	13
Focus Groups.....	16
Practitioner Surveys	20
Monitoring Impact/Progress.....	23
In Summary.....	24
Suggested Resources and References.....	25

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About this toolkit

Safeguarding adults is ‘what we do’ whether it be front-line practice, operational/strategic management, commissioning or providing services, working in partnership, oversight and governance or identifying lessons and driving improvement. The ‘*Second National Analysis of Safeguarding Adults Reviews 2019-2023* (published 2024)¹’ has driven a range of workstream activity at a national level across four key domains.

1. Direct Practice
2. Team Around the Person
3. Organisational Support for Staff
4. Governance

A fifth domain relating to ‘national drivers’ is an additional thread for Safeguarding Adults Boards to acknowledge and consider as part of its core activity. Workstreams taken forward following on from the national analysis include:

- **Developing the Evidence-Base across Four Domains – Workstream 1**
- **A Summit on Adult Safeguarding (Spring 2026) – Workstream 2**
- **Improving and Measuring the Impact of SARS – Workstream 3**
- **Reviewing the Care Act 2014 – Ten Years On – Workstream 4**

The quality of person-centred responses for adults through safeguarding intervention is just one measure of how effective the safeguarding system is, the learning from reviews supports SABs in their continuous improvement. These approaches support the maturity of multi-agency working and Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs) generally, in line with their statutory responsibilities.

This toolkit aims to support SABs to ‘improve and measure the impact of SARs’ at a local level, drawing on the learning from the second SAR analysis to:

- Draw from a range of ‘good practice resources’ used to improve and measure the impact of SARs
- Develop new and innovative tools to support SABs collate their evidence base of impact and outcomes and difference made from SARs
- Support SABs with suggestions for tracking assurance activities and the outcomes of SAR recommendations
- Scope and develop guidance for reviewers and SAB partners on bringing forward SAR recommendations that clearly identify the case for change, are learning oriented, are evidence-based, and allocate responsibility with dates for review (CLEAR Framework)

¹ Commissioned by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) as Partners in Care and Health (PCH)

It is hoped that this toolkit can be used in conjunction and be complemented by the related outputs and resources developed under '**Workstream 1 Developing the Evidence-Base across Four Domains (as above)**' and '**Workstream 3 – CLEAR Framework**'.

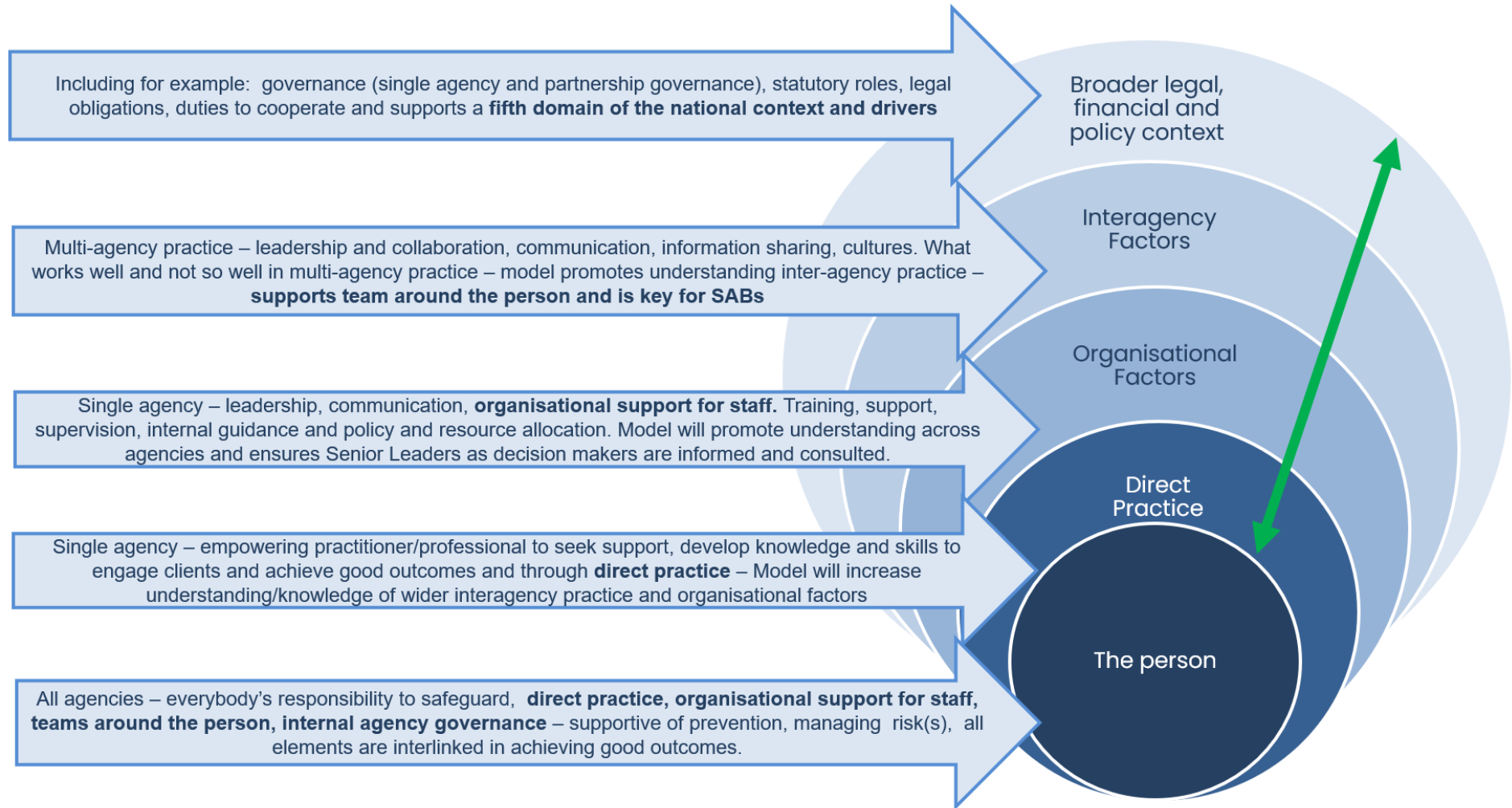
Improving and Measuring the Impact from SARs

A collectively agreed definition of the '**Impact from a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)**' is the '*positive difference made to practice, systems, and outcomes as a result of the review's learning*'. It encompasses and is evidenced through:

- Embedding of Learning – Practitioners and leaders are able to articulate key messages from the SAR, and this learning is reflected in training, supervision, policies, and procedure (which in turn can support the measuring the impact).
- Changes in Direct Practice – Professionals demonstrate altered behaviours, approaches, or decision-making in response to the SAR's findings and recommendations.
- Improved Outcomes for Adults at Risk – Adults experiencing abuse, neglect, or risk benefit from earlier intervention, enhanced support, or more responsive safeguarding approaches (in other words, teams around the person).
- Systems and Process Improvement – Organisations implement and support structural or procedural changes to address identified gaps and prevent recurrence of similar safeguarding concerns or issues (the fundamental organisational support for staff).
- Sustained Change Over Time – Actions taken are embedded into organisational culture and monitored over time to ensure continuous learning and improvement (both single agency and collective governance).

The Four Domains – An illustration for Safeguarding Adult Boards

Making connections throughout the wider safeguarding system is not new. Drawing from the four domains that emerged in the Second National Analysis of Safeguarding Adults Reviews helps to illustrate the SAB role to those connections including the links to the national context and drivers.



In essence, SAR impact is not about ticking boxes — it's about connecting the dots between learning, action, change, and better outcomes”

The following sections aim to support Safeguarding Adults Boards with a range of ideas and tool suggestions to build upon current practices and generate the necessary evidence of impact and outcomes relating to SAR learning and the responsiveness to review recommendations.

Suggestions include:

- Assessments and Audits
- Focus Groups
- Survey Activities

Assessment and Audits

Safeguarding Adults Boards have for several years proactively undertaken activity to measure the effectiveness of their partnership working. The approaches will vary across SAB's. Section 43 and Schedule 2 of the Care Act 2014 informs:

Section 43 (3) of the Care Act states, 'The way in which a SAB must seek to achieve its objective is by co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each of its members does', and (4) 'A SAB may do anything which appears to it to be necessary or desirable for the purpose of achieving its objective'. Schedule 2 of the Care Act 2014 informs the SAB that it may regulate its own procedure.

All of the above are relative and supportive of the main purposes of a SAB and in measuring the effectiveness of activity inclusive of SARs.

There is a range of existing guidance and tools to support SABs in developing their assessment and audit activities.

Visit: [Safeguarding adults assurance information resource for directors of adult social services | Local Government Association](#)

SABs may measure effectiveness in a variety of ways which includes (not exhaustive):

- Board reporting from and to its working groups
- Peer Assessments
- Measuring progress against strategic priorities
- Challenge Events or Clinics

- Adult, their families and/or representatives Experiences and Outcomes
- Advocacy Experiences and Outcomes
- Agency Self-Assessments
- Single and/or multi-agency case file audit
- SAB effectiveness audits
- Statutory annual reporting

The SAB has a role in endorsing the learning, findings and recommendations from Safeguarding Adults Reviews. In addition, it is essential that a SAB has oversight of the progress against those recommendations and closing the loop. There is a key role for SABs in ensuring that statutory and relevant partners contribute to and meet any improvement activity that has been agreed.

SABs should consider in line with good governance what it needs in terms of 1) single agency assurance and 2) evidence. This can support the development of related activity such as audit, assessment and/or assurance.

The safeguarding system is multi-faceted, and involves statutory agencies, wider stakeholders such as service providers, the voluntary sector and importantly adults, their representatives and advocacy.

SABs are in a position in line with their remit to request participation and contribution to the local safeguarding adults agenda and through a variety of ways.

Partner Self-Assessments

With the above in mind and with focus upon Safeguarding Adults Reviews as well as sector led improvement, SABs may wish to consider the development of dedicated SAR self-assessments. The self-assessment activity that SABs have undertaken covers a broad range of single agency responsibilities, standards and expectations, and often includes (not exhaustive):

- Leadership
- Strategy
- Policy and Procedures
- Staffing and Culture
- Learning and Development
- Safeguarding Practice
- Making Safeguarding Personal
- Quality Assurance and Monitoring

Following the ‘*Second National Analysis of Safeguarding Adults Reviews 2019-2023*’ there is opportunity for SABs to build upon their current assessment activity with focus upon the SARs and learning and the related domains of direct practice, team around the person, organisational support of staff and governance. A SAB may wish to consider the frequency of such activity and any measures of success. The following is a suggested question set that SABs may wish to adopt or adapt to support improving and measuring the impact of local SAR activity, it may be developed to capture embedding learning for a specific SAR or more generally. SABs can use the below in a range of formats such as Microsoft Forms, Microsoft Excel.

Safeguarding Adults Reviews – Partner Self-Assessment						
1. Direct Practice						
Question	RAG Rating			Evidence to support assessment rating	Action(s) required to improve assessment rating	Target Date
Do practitioners apply Making Safeguarding Personal principles consistently? What difference did that make for the adult?						
Do staff exercise professional curiosity, including in disguised compliance or self-neglect situations?						
Are risk assessments holistic, updated and considerate of changing situation(s) and increased or decreased risk(s)?						
Is the Mental Capacity Act understood and applied correctly?						
Are MCA assessments reviewed/revisited?						
Do practitioners know how and when to escalate safeguarding issues/concerns? And particularly in situations of decline, or increased risk.						
Are safeguarding decisions well-evidenced, timely and defensible?						

Safeguarding Adults Reviews – Partner Self-Assessment

2. Team around the Person

Question	RAG Rating			Evidence to support assessment rating	Action(s) required to improve assessment rating	Target Date
Do practitioners understand when they can share information without consent?	Red	Yellow	Green			
Are adults supported to share their views and express outcomes? Is their evidence of listening to the voice of adults and/or their representatives?	Red	Yellow	Green			
Does recording practice consider protected characteristics and intersecting vulnerabilities for example, (disability, neurodiversity, race)?	Red	Yellow	Green			
Does recording practice support adjustments to meet communication or accessibility needs of the adult or their representative?	Red	Yellow	Green			
Is information shared in a timely manner and appropriately with partners to support achieving good outcomes?	Red	Yellow	Green			
Does recording practice evidence conversations with the adult and/or their representative? Is attention paid to what they say and what they do, and any observations over time?	Red	Yellow	Green			
Do practitioners work with wider agencies in formulating plans to keep the person as safe as possible, in the least intrusive way? E.g. through Multi-disciplinary team meetings.	Red	Yellow	Green			

Safeguarding Adults Reviews – Partner Self-Assessment

3. Organisational Support for Staff

Question	RAG Rating			Evidence to support assessment rating	Action(s) required to improve assessment rating	Target Date
Do staff receive regular safeguarding supervision with opportunity to reflect upon their practice?	Red	Yellow	Green			
Do internal systems support staff to deal with trauma, emotional impact and/or compassion fatigue?	Red	Yellow	Green			
Do internal systems support staff to professionally challenge with clear guidance on escalation pathways/routes? How do you know?	Red	Yellow	Green			
Is safeguarding adults training up to date, mandatory and appropriate to staffing groups?	Red	Yellow	Green			
Does your agency update training programmes or messaging to staff with the learning from local SARs?	Red	Yellow	Green			
Are policies updated to reflect the learning from SARs to support embedded learning?	Red	Yellow	Green			
Do staff have access to resources and tools to support their practice that embed the learning from SARs (for example, self-neglect frameworks, transitional safeguarding, risk assessment templates).	Red	Yellow	Green			

Safeguarding Adults Reviews – Partner Self-Assessment

4. Internal Governance

Question	RAG Rating			Evidence to support assessment rating	Action(s) required to improve assessment rating	Target Date
Is the learning from SARs regularly and effectively shared across the workforce/organisation?						
Are SAR recommendations for your agency tracked and implemented?						
Does your agency complete any monitoring for impact of implemented activity.						
Are your senior leaders sighted on the learning from SARS and emerging themes?						
Is learning from SARS for your own agency embedded, how do you know?						
Do you provide assurance to the SAB of the implemented action(s) as a result of SARs?						

Multi-Agency Audits

SABS as a matter of course undertake multi-agency audit activities. That approach lends itself to the learning emerged from national analysis and can support SABs to gain rich information as to whether learning is embedded across the multi-agency workforce. The domains of direct practice, and team around the person, provide a steer for SABs to undertake audits and gain an insight into current practice and any areas of development. That approach can support with measuring the impact of local SARs as well as the emerged national findings. The below is a sample suggestion that boards can use as a starting point and adapt/adopt to support their work.

Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiry Audit Tool - Insert Board Name or Logo

The insert SAB name holds a responsibility for measuring the effectiveness of local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. In line with SAB usual practice a range of mechanisms exist to ensure the partnership is assured of the quality of those arrangements. Audit activity is just one element of that assurance. Making Safeguarding Personal should be at the fore of any audit activity, all audits will endeavour to capture assurance related to Empowerment, Prevention, Protection, Proportionality, Partnership, Accountability. In addition the Second National Analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews (NA2) identified shortcomings in practice, this tool is reflective of two key domains relating to Direct Practice and Team around the Person to support collation of evidence for the SAB relating to learning from SARs and the impact.					
CASE DETAILS:					
Adults Unique ID:		Lead Auditor/SAB Member:			
AGE:		Agencies Involved:			
Concern and Enquiry Date(s)		Practitioner/s Initials if spoken to/consulted			
DOMAIN 1: Direct Practice – the auditor should consider single and/or multi-agency involvement					
No	Question:	Auditor Notes	Not met	Partly Met	Fully Met
1	Were any safeguarding concerns recognised promptly by the referring agencies? (more than agency can report for the same issue)				
2	Did recording clearly identify and define the risk, abuse or neglect?				
3	Were statutory safeguarding principles applied and which principles? (empowerment, prevention, protection, proportionality, partnership, accountability) and by which agencies?				

No	Question:	Auditor Notes	Not met	Partly Met	Fully Met
4	Did agency practice demonstrate professional curiosity?				
5	Did practice demonstrate sound knowledge of safeguarding adults?				
6	Was the Mental Capacity Act understood and correctly applied? (if appropriate)				
7	Did practice demonstrate cultural competence? (where relevant)				
8	Did practice demonstrate consideration of protected characteristics, intersectionality? (where relevant)				
9	Was safeguarding support/interventions appropriate to the presenting, emerging or identified risk(s)?				
10	Does practice evidence multi-agency working and that appropriate agencies were involved (including meetings/risk assessments)?				
Auditor Notes: Practice Strengths					
Auditor Note: Areas for Development					
DOMAIN 2: Team around the Person – the auditor should consider single and/or multi-agency involvement					
No	Question:	Auditor Notes	Not met	Partly Met	Fully Met
1	Was the adult, appropriate representative engaged in the safeguarding response safely and appropriately?				
2	Was the adult, appropriate representative voice central to any safeguarding support and decision making?				
3	Was their consideration to the needs and diversity of the individual? protected characteristics, intersectionality)				
4	Is there an indication that approaches were not trauma informed?				
5	Were agency responses to any safeguarding requests timely and clear?				

DOMAIN 2: Team around the Person – the auditor should consider single and/or multi-agency involvement					
No	Question:	Auditor Notes	Not met	Partly Met	Fully Met
6	Were advocacy services provided/offered (if appropriate)?				
7	Were the adults views, wishes and expressed outcomes identified?				
8	Were those outcomes met?				
9	Is there information that demonstrates the adult, appropriate representative (or advocate) experience of the safeguarding enquiry and/or any support/intervention?				
Auditor Summary:					
Domain 1 – What worked well across agencies					
Domain 1 – Areas for Learning/Improvement					
Domain 2 - What worked well across agencies					
Domain 2 – Areas of Learning/Improvement					
Suggested Recommendations:					
Description		Lead Agency	Short/Medium/Long Term	Timescale	
Audit Team Sign Off:	Name:	Role:	Agency:	Date:	
	Name:	Role:	Agency:	Date:	

Focus Groups

Using focus groups as a means of qualitative research and evidence collation is one approach that SABs may wish to undertake. The below is a sample suggestion that SABs can adopt or adapt.

Safeguarding Adult Reviews - Focus Group			
Board Name:		Focus Group Date:	
Focus Group Time:		Duration:	
Facilitator(s):			
Individual Participant(s):			
Represented Agencies/Organisations:			
<p>Purpose of the Focus Group:</p> <p>On behalf of the insert board name this focus group aims to understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The perceived impact on outcomes for adults with care and support needs (team around the person) • How the SAR findings and learning have influenced your practice (direct practice) • The extent to which you feel recommendations have been embedded (direct practice) • Barriers and enablers to achieving sustainable change (organisational support for staff) • Opportunities to further strengthen safeguarding practice (internal agency and board governance) 			
<p>Focus Group Principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responses and views will remain anonymous - Views and experiences are valued - Peers will be respectful of one another's views, experiences and perspectives - Professional challenge of ideas, suggestions - Be open and be reflective 			
<p>Initial Views - this element is aimed at creating a safe and supportive environment for participant(s):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please share your role and involvement in relation to safeguarding adults 2. Can you share your understanding of Safeguarding Adults Reviews with focus upon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have you read the insert board name SARs? (or individual SAR if focus group is specific to one completed SAR) - Have SARs been discussed within your individual supervision and/or team meetings? - Have you attended events, briefings, workshops (adapt and/or delete as appropriate) and relating to the content of a specific SAR (can include local SAR name/reference). 			

Improving and Measuring the Impact of SARs Focussed Elements – Question Set			
Domain: Direct Practice			
No	Question	Suggested Prompts and/or Anticipated Outputs	Facilitator(s) Notes
1	As a practitioner/professional how are you aware/informed of local SARs.	Include here your SAB related information for example, briefings, newsletters, events, workshops, internal communications, management updates, learning and development opportunities, board resources and/or website updates.	
2	Do you feel the messages from SARs are clear?	Language use, length and messages, relevancy to individual roles and/or agencies.	
3	Which SAR themes do you feel are most significant to your own area of work?	Not applicable	
4	Have you seen a positive impact for adults you work with as a result of local learning from SARs? What difference did it make for the adult?	Aims to seek whether practitioner direct practice has seen positive impact, is person centred/outcome focussed. Prompts include whether impact differs for adults with intersecting vulnerabilities (for example, where disability, race, gender, age, neurodiversity, sexuality or migration status)	
Domain: Organisational Support for Staff and Change			
No	Question	Suggested Prompts and/or Anticipated Outputs	Facilitator(s) Notes
5	What changes have you seen in your own or your service practice as a result of support and/or messaging from your service/organisation?	Include here your SAB related information for example, reference to policies, assessment, risk assessment/management, information sharing, professional curiosity etc.	
6	Are you able to share one example where learning related to a local SAR has influenced your own practice or that of your organisation, generally.		
7	Do you feel the local learning from SARs has led to changes for your own team/service/agency?	Can include suggestions of policy, procedure, training, continuous professional development. And what is working well and not so well.	

8	What supports you to apply the learning from local SARs in your day-to-day role? Have these changes been sustained over time?	Aims to seek extract insights for leadership, supervision, practice improvement and/or development, support, and staff culture.	
9	What do you feel may hamper you in your role?	Aims to seek whether there are challenges within individual agencies for capacity, competing priorities, resource limitations, clarity of messaging, cultural challenges.	
Domain: Team around the Person			
No	Question	Suggested Prompts and/or Anticipated Outputs	Facilitator(s) Notes
10	Do you feel that local SAR learning has improved outcomes for adults and how? Can you share an example where outcomes have improved.	Aims to seek whether there is sustained change and/or improvement to safety and wellbeing for adults, multi-agency working or responsiveness, making safeguarding personal practice. For example, has SAR learning improved outcomes for adults across diverse communities, or where multiple aspects of identity intersectionality.	
11	Do you feel there are areas of inconsistent or limited impact? And what are they?	Aims to seek escalation items for the SAB.	
Domain: Governance (single agency)			
No	Question	Suggested Prompts and/or Anticipated Outputs	Facilitator(s) Notes
12	How do you feel local SAR learning has affected your own service/agency working?	Aims to seek/explore whether there is effective communication, good support, feedback opportunities.	
13	Do you feel partnership working has improved and how?	Aims to seek whether there is effective or improved communication, cooperation, shared responsibility.	
14	Are there particular agencies, or interfaces where you feel SAR learning has highlighted gaps?	Aims to seek any areas of escalation for the SAB.	

Domain: Governance (SAB related)			
No	Question	Suggested Prompts and/or Anticipated Outputs	Facilitator(s) Notes
15	What do you feel is missing or could support you or your service/agency to help you embed local SAR learning?	Aims to seek continual improvement activity for the SAB and to support sustained change. This can include for example where there are communities or groups whose experiences may not yet be sufficiently reflected in SAR learning or focus group engagement.	
16	What do you feel the SAB could do differently to improve its communication, learning and impact from SARs?	Aims to seek continual improvement areas and inform future priorities for the SAB.	
Close of session			
Facilitator summary of key emerged themes		Share update from discussion(s) and summary points	
Facilitators note of thanks and next steps		Outline for the group where the information will be shared with anonymity, for example, to an executive group, working group, the SAB.	
Facilitator(s) Reflection – to inform board reporting			
Key themes identified from discussion			
Areas of consensus agreement and/or strengths			
Areas of challenge and/or escalation to the SAB or to the National Network for Chairs of Adult Safeguarding Boards/Other forums			
Initial views on action(s) and/or recommendation(s) for the SAB			

Practitioner Surveys

The voice of practitioners is equally as important to the role of SABs in improving and measuring the impact of SARs. The views of professionals, staff and volunteers are a valuable source of support to SABs and can inform of challenges faced by practitioners to embed learning from SARs. That in turn can support the SAB of any areas to address. The below suggested questions can be adopted/adapted and transferred to other software formats such as Microsoft Forms or Excel.

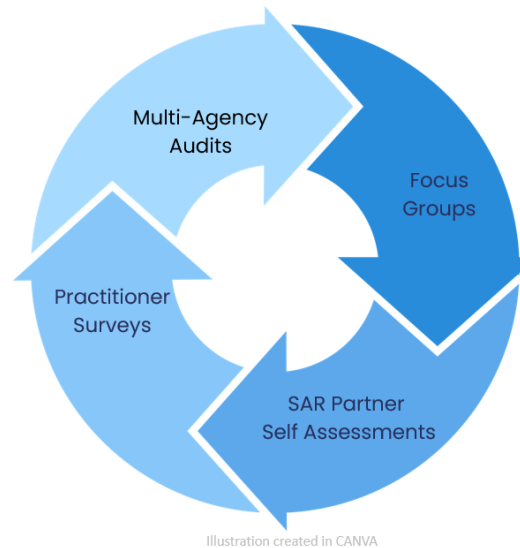
Safeguarding Adults Reviews – Practitioner Survey - Impact and Learning				
Introduction/Purpose				
<p>Insert SAB name is committed to continual improvement and hearing from practitioners who support adults in our area. This survey is an opportunity for the multi-agency workforce to share information with the SAB and inform us of how the learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews is shared and if it influences your safeguarding practice. It will help us to understand if learning is embedded, identify local strengths and identify gaps to inform future improvements and training offers. It will inform us of any barriers or challenges facing frontline professionals, staff, and volunteers and how the SAB can help. Your contribution to the work of the SAB is of value; please do take the time to complete this short survey. The survey is a mix of multiple choice and free text options. All survey responses are anonymous. If you do wish to share further information or would like to contact us, please email insert contact detail and an officer will respond.</p>				
SECTION 1: About you and your agency				
Which of the below best describes where you work?				
Local Authority Adult Social Care		Integrated Care Board		Police
Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust		Acute NHS Foundation Trust		Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust
Fire and Rescue Services		His Majesty’s Prison Service		Probation Service
Local Authority – Housing		Local Authority – Environment		Local Authority - Commissioning
NHS Primary Care		Provider – Day Service		Provider – Domicilliary Care
Provider – Residential and/or Nursing		Provider – Extra Care		Provider - Supported/Assisted Living
Provider – Advocacy		Provider – Housing		Provider – Non-NHS Health
Voluntary Sector/Charity		Healthwatch		Community Group
What is your role? e.g. social worker, community nurse				

How many years' experience do you have of safeguarding adults?									
Under 1 year		1 to 3 years		3 to 5 years		5 to 10 years		10+ years	
SECTION 2: Awareness and understanding of Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)									
How aware are you of recent SARs in our area?									
Very Aware		Somewhat Aware		Slightly Aware		Not aware at all			
How confident are you that you understand the purpose of SARs?									
Very confident		Confident		Somewhat Confident		Not confident			
Have you accessed any of the following related to SARs (tick all that apply)									
SAR Reports		Executive Summaries		Learning Briefings					
Workshops/Events		Team/Group discussion		None					
SECTION 3: Embedding Learning in your agency and practice									
How well has your agency communicated the learning from SARs?									
Very Well		Well		Needs Improvement		Poorly			
To what extent have SARs influenced your direct practice?									
Significantly		Moderately		Slightly		Not at all			
Which areas of your practice have changed as a result of SAR learning (tick all that apply)									
Recognising abuse and/or neglect		Making Safeguarding Personal Practice		Professionally curious and responsive					
Mental Capacity Act – Understanding		Mental Capacity Act – Application		Information Sharing					
Responding to self-neglect		Perseverance to engage with clients		Multi-agency working					
Recording Practice		Attention to protected characteristics		Improved legal literacy					
Recognition and use of advocacy		Trauma informed approach		Attention to drug and/or alcohol use					

SECTION 4: The wider system and impact							
In your view and informed by your own experience, has SAR learning improved multi-agency working?							
Yes, significantly		Yes, somewhat		Unsure		No	
Do you feel more confident to professionally challenge partner agencies as a result of SAR learning?							
Yes, confident		Somewhat confident		Not confident			
How effective are the current SAB procedures in supporting your safeguarding practice?							
Very effective		Effective		Need improvement		Not effective	
SECTION 5: Support, Supervision and Organisational Culture							
Does your organisation provide you with opportunities to reflect upon the SAR learning and your practice (for example, debriefs, team discussion, individual supervision)							
Regularly		Sometimes		Rarely		Never	
How confident are you that senior leaders in your agency act on SAR learning/findings?							
Very confident		Somewhat confident		Unsure		Not confident	
Do you feel supported in managing complex cases?							
Always		Often		Sometimes		Rarely	
SECTION 6: Measuring Impact							
Since SAR learning was shared, have you noticed improvements (tick all that apply)							
Decision making		Escalation Pathways		Risk Management		Multi-agency working	
Working with adult who self-neglect		Recording and quality		Staff confidence levels		None/not sure	
Do you feel that SAR learning is leading to sustained change for you/your agency practice?							
Yes, significantly		Yes, some change		Minimal Change		No change	
What do you feel are the biggest challenges or barriers to embedding SAR learning? (optional)							
SECTION 7: Further Support							
What further training or resources do you feel would help you to embed SAR learning?							
SECTION 8: Final Comments							
Are there any other comments you wish to share with the SAB?							

Monitoring Impact/Progress

Improving and measuring the impact of Safeguarding Adult Reviews is a 'must do' for Safeguarding Adults Boards. A SAB may determine the way in which it undertakes that activity and in what order.



SABS will have a range of mechanisms in place to ensure appropriate assurance activity is completed to support measuring its effectiveness. Monitoring and measuring SAR impact should be included within that activity. It may encompass (not exhaustive):

- SAR Committee/Panel Reporting
- SAR Thematic Tools
- Dashboards
- Working Group Updates and Board Reporting
- Action Plan Monitoring and Updates
- Single Agency Progress/Assurance Reporting
- Regulatory Inspection Agency Updates
- Challenge Clinics

- Board Development Days
- SAB Risk Logs (and escalation items to wider forums such as the National Network for Chairs of Adult Safeguarding Boards/other forums)

SABs should determine their own mechanisms for seeking assurance, and review these at regular intervals in line with usual practice for other areas such as Terms of Reference, Governance revisits. SABs may include any expectations such as the frequency of monitoring and the related reporting routes. This may include single agency internal management/scrutiny structures, executive groups, Health and Wellbeing Boards, Senior Leader forums.

All of the above can support the SAB to demonstrate it is ‘closing the loop’ in terms of improving and measuring the impact of SARs.

In Summary

In summary, this toolkit aims to support the sector-led improvement ask following the Second National Analysis of Safeguarding Adults Reviews (NA2). It is supportive of key findings relating to systemic issues that emerged and messages in the Briefing for [Safeguarding Adult Board Chairs and Business Managers: Second national analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews \(2024\)](#). It can serve as an aide memoire for SABs for responding to the findings from analysis and for individual SARs. It covers elements such as risk assessment, professional curiosity and management oversight (not exhaustive). Each example tool has been built upon the national analysis messaging and linked to the four domains of direct practice, team around the person and governance (both single agency and SABs). It incorporates and highlights potential prompts for escalation and routes for example, the National Network for Chairs of Adult Safeguarding Boards.

The toolkit aims to provide ideas and resources that can support SABs to:

- Reduce repetition of SAR learning
- Support SABs to collate robust evidence of both single agency and SAB responsiveness to SARs (including cascading and embedding of learning)
- Strengthen the internal agency and SAB governance processes

The toolkit should be read in conjunction with legislation, statutory guidance and wider resources. A list is provided at Suggested Resources and References section.

A further note of thanks is extended to Workstream Convenors and Coordinators, Contributors and Participants and for the resources shared to inform the development of this toolkit and support continued sector-led improvement.

Safeguarding learning only has value if it changes the lived experience of adults — this toolkit is how we can test that...

Suggested Resources and References

Partners in Care and Health (2024) - National Analysis of Safeguarding Adults Reviews: April 2019–March 2023:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/second-national-analysis-safeguarding-adult-reviews-april-2019-march-2023>

Care and Support Statutory Guidance - Sections 14.145–14.150 – SAB functions and accountability: [Care and support statutory guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Care Act 2014 (England) Section 43 – Safeguarding Adult Boards: [Care Act 2014](#)

Local Government Association (LGA) & ADASS (2023) - Making Safeguarding Personal: <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/our-improvement-offer/care-and-health-improvement/making-safeguarding-personal>

NHS England Safeguarding Accountability and Assurance Framework (2022): <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/safeguarding-accountability-and-assurance-framework/>

Partners in Care and Health (2024) - National Analysis of Safeguarding Adults Reviews: April 2019–March 2023:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/national-analysis-safeguarding-adults-reviews-2019-2022>

SCIE SAR Quality Markers: <https://www.scie.org.uk/safeguarding/adults/reviews/quality-markers>

CLEAR Framework (Workstream 3 on SAR Impact, 2024–2025) - Case for change, Learning-oriented, Evidence-informed, Allocated responsibility, Review dates