

## National library of SARs and the second national SAR analysis & Why SARs are an opportunity

**1. The National library of SARs** contains completed Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) which are a statutory requirement following a death or serious harm involving an adult with care and support needs where abuse or neglect is suspected. It aims to share widely the learning from those reviews. [The national network of Safeguarding Adult Boards \(SAB\)](#) recommend that we publicise the library's resources and use them to improve practice.

**7. How can we really learn the lessons from SARs?** Our SABs are aware we see the same themes repeated in our SARs including self-neglect. We need to support front-line practitioners to have the time to explore the SAR learning then as a team decide how the recommendations should lead to team level action plans. A 5-question learning reflection tool will be used for future SARs by front-line teams to explore and develop their own action plan. See your agency safeguarding lead for more info.

**6. It is vital that partners know [how to respond to self neglect](#)**

Self-neglect means neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviours such as hoarding. 60% of all SARs are about self-neglect, frequently agencies do not quantify the state of the person's home, seek their views, think about [executive capacity](#), or close cases prematurely owing to "lifestyle choices" (inc. alcohol & drug misuse) instead of using s.11 of the Care Act

**2. Why the library is important and how to use it;** the purpose of SARs and the library is to promote learning and improve systems, through applying that learning. The goal is to find out what could have been done differently to prevent harm and improve future outcomes. The library includes SARs by year. There is [a guide how to use it](#) which allows you to search for key themes so you can use those to inform learning & training



**5. What is the key learning from SARs?**

There has been significant learning extracted from the major themes in the national SAR analysis: poor risk assessments in 82% of cases; not applying the [Mental Capacity Act](#).

Not recognising signs of abuse, not applying [Making Safeguarding Personal](#) and [the need to be more professionally curious](#) rather than take things at face value. There was also a lack of multiagency coordination.

In terms of policies there were concerns over some partnerships not having guidance on [how to respond to self neglect](#) and [managing allegations about people in a position of trust](#)

**3. What are SARs and your agency role.**

Please see a SAR as an opportunity to make an impact. They take place to drive learning when safeguarding arrangements have not worked. They are not about blame but to drive positive change. [Here is information about SARs in TW and Shropshire](#). Please also see this video on [Statutory case reviews](#). All partners need to know and use the [List of 15 Safeguarding Adult Reviews Quality Markers – SCIE](#). Only make a referral when you have a sound rationale – you may need to talk to other partners first; the SAB will tell & engage the family. The SAR will focus on learning; the SAB commissions an author and make sure the terms of reference are effective; please inform the key people in your agency and use the learning to change your agency's practice

**4. The second national SAR analysis** is a really important resource that has analysed learning from all the published SARs between 2019 – 2023. All 136 SABs in England took part and 652 SARs were considered. These are a great way to share learning, and agencies should refer to them in training, supervision and other forums especially if you have identified an area that requires improvement. You could also search key themes from the [national SAR library](#) to help locate a SAR with specific learning. Some of the key search terms are Physical abuse, Psychological/emotional abuse, Sexual abuse, Sexual exploitation, Financial /material abuse, Neglect/omission, Domestic Abuse Older People, self-neglect etc