

Title: Involving the Person Alleged to Have Caused Harm in Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)

Introduction:

As front practitioners working in adult safeguarding, it is important to understand the role of Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) in promoting learning, improvement to practice, and prevention. One key aspect of SARs is the involvement of the person or organisation alleged to have caused harm (POACH) in the learning process. This learning brief aims to provide frontline practitioners with an understanding of why and how to involve the POACH in SARs.

Why involve the POACH in SARs?

- Promotes a culture of reflection, learning, and improvement to practice.
- Helps identify the root causes of the harm, including any factors that may have contributed to it.
- Enables the POACH to review their approach, act differently, and reflect upon the impact that they might have had on others.
- Provides an opportunity to explore and address any broader societal factors, such as discrimination or lack of access to services, that may have contributed to the harm.
- Contributes to the prevention of future harm.

How to involve the POACH in SARs?

- Approach the POACH sensitively, respectfully, and with a focus on learning and improvement to practice rather than blame or liability.
- Explain the purpose and process of SARs and how the POACH's involvement can help promote learning and prevention.
- Provide appropriate support and interventions, such as liaisons with other professionals trained to work with people who abuse.
- Ensure confidentiality and data protection are maintained throughout the process.
- Encourage a person-centred and collaborative approach, which considers the needs and experiences of the adult at risk and involves all relevant agencies and professionals in the learning process.

Conclusion:

Involving the POACH in Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) can promote a more person-centred, collaborative, and preventative approach to adult safeguarding. It is important to approach this process sensitively and respectfully and to provide appropriate support and interventions to enable the POACH to reflect and learn from their actions. By working together in this way, we can contribute to preventing future harm and improving safeguarding practices.