# 7 minute briefing

Safeguarding ENFIELD

## Referring for a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR):

The SAB is required to arrange a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) where there is reasonable cause for concern about how the SAB, and its members or some other person with relevant functions, worked together and the adult at risk died or experienced serious harm or neglect potentially resulting from this.

SARs are not intended to assign blame but are crucial tools to identify learning for the partnership (both as a partnership and as individual agencies) to prevent future harm. Please check out the referral forms and criteria here.

**Just as every person is an individual, so are the circumstances around their death. Please read the full guidance for a lot more information about different processes.**

## Why do we need specific guidance around this?

There are a lot of different processes that may apply when an adult dies and there are concerns about abuse or neglect. Local guidance has been prepared specifically for Adult Social Care staff but reflects London Wide Policies and Procedures (updated November 2025).

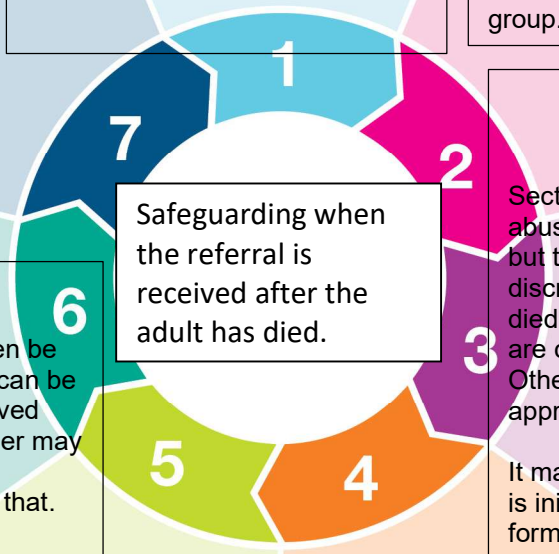
it is important to understand who is taking the lead in each case– to prevent duplication and support bereaved loved ones appropriately.

## Initial steps when a concern is received by Adult Social Care & the adult has already died.

The MASH will work to establish cause of death and which other agencies may be involved as soon as possible.

A multi-agency discussion will then be convened in order to establish what processes may be considered – such as Police investigation, NHS Serious Incident processes, LeDeR (review of the death of a person with Learning disabilities), Domestic Abuse Related Death Review. For information about some of these, please look at the wider guidance.

The identified agency will then carry forward their own process and report back to the group.




## Contacting the Coroner:

Information about cause of death can often be identified via the Coroner – though there can be delays where drugs and alcohol are involved (due to time taken for testing). The Coroner may wish to convene an Inquest and ask for information from professionals to support that.

You can make contact with the Coroner here.

## The purpose of Adult Social Care enquiries after a death.

Section 42 of the Care Act applies to abuse and neglect against living adults – but the Care Act does allow for discretionary enquiries where adults have died. This would usually be where there are concerns about other adults at risk. Other processes are often more appropriate.

It may be that a Provider Support Process is initiated to support improvement in a formal care provider.

It is important to note that ASC enquiries will not look at cause of death or criminal responsibility – these processes will concentrate on how to keep living adults safe.

If an adult dies mid-enquiry, that enquiry will be completed as per usual processes.

## Sensitive contact with family or friends.

The guidance includes lots of information about sensitive contact with family and/or friends of the deceased.

It is vital that:

- Contact is through an identified professional,
- Professionals are consistent and reliable (calling when they say they will.
- Frequency and type of contact is agreed with the family.

Grief is a process – so grieving loved ones may seem to feel differently each time you speak with them. It is vital that managers support staff who are liaising with bereaved adults appropriately.

## Police involvement.

**It is also important to note that any allegation of a crime in relation to a death should be reported to Police immediately via 101 – regardless of any judgement by other agencies about the validity of this allegation**. Members of the Public should also be advised of their right to report such things directly to the Police and advised that (in many cases) a direct report is most helpful to Police in making a determination. Feedback from Police on such referrals should be requested in writing.