

Background:

Information sharing is essential for effective safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. It is a key factor identified in many serious case reviews (SCRs), where poor information sharing has resulted in missed opportunities to take action that keeps children and young people safe.

Why it matters 1:

Sharing information is an intrinsic part of any frontline practitioners' job when working with children and young people. The decisions about how much information to share, with whom and when, can have a profound impact on individuals' lives. Information sharing helps to ensure that an individual receives the right services at the right time and prevents a need from becoming more acute and difficult to meet.

Why It matters 2:

Fears about sharing information cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children at risk of abuse or neglect. Every practitioner must take responsibility for sharing the information they hold, and cannot assume that someone else will pass on information, which may be critical to keeping a child safe.

Additional Information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice>



7 minutes briefing: Information Sharing

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The 7 golden Rules:

1. the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Data Protection Act 2018 and human rights law are not barriers to justified information sharing
2. Be open and honest
3. Seek advice
4. When possible, seek consent
5. Consider safety and wellbeing
6. **Necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure**
7. Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it

How to share:

- Identify how much information to share
- Distinguish fact from opinion
- Ensure that you are giving the right information to the right individual
- Ensure where possible that you are sharing the information securely
- Where possible, be transparent with the individual, informing them that that the information has been shared, as long as doing so does not create or increase the risk of harm to the individual.

When to share:

Is there a clear and legitimate purpose for sharing information?

- Yes – see next question
- No – do not share

Do you have consent to share?

- Yes – you can share but should consider how
- No – see next question

Does the information enable an individual to be identified?

- Yes – see next question
- No – you can share but should consider how

Have you identified a lawful reason to share information without consent?

- Yes – you can share but should consider how
- No – do not share