

1

What is the key message?

Safeguarding comes first. You do not need consent when sharing information to safeguard a child or protect them from harm. You can read more about this in the new information sharing duty guidance. [Click this link.](#)

Ask: Must I share this information help protect a child?

If immediate risk is present: share information immediately and record the rationale as soon as possible afterwards.



Information Sharing Guidance



2

Can Share has changed to Must Share

The Information Sharing Duty, creates a clear statutory expectation that safeguarding partners and relevant agencies share information where it may help safeguard or promote a child's welfare.

Organisations **must** share information if they consider it may help another safeguarding organisation assess need, make decisions, provide support or take safeguarding action.

7

What must I record?

Always record:

- What information was shared
- Who it was shared with
- Why it was shared
- The lawful basis for sharing
- Your rationale for the decision

3

What should I share?

Share information that is relevant, accurate, necessary and proportionate.

Avoid sharing whole case files unless genuinely required, and make sure information is shared securely.

If you have had concerns before, consider compiling a short impact chronology to share with your information.

6

Why is curiosity important?

Be professionally curious, seek information from partners and share concerns early. Small pieces of information across services can build the jigsaw of a child's lived experience and reveal risk.

Be alert to hidden, cumulative and overlapping harms. A concern about attendance, domestic abuse, exploitation, online activity, neglect or changing behaviour may be more significant when considered alongside information held by others.

5

What if I'm unsure?

Seek advice from

- Your manager
- Designated safeguarding lead
- Information Governance lead
- Data Protection Lead
- Caldicott Guardian (if appropriate)

Do not allow uncertainty to delay urgent safeguarding action.

4

Is it safe to tell the family?

If yes

Be open and explain your decision.

If no

Share information without informing them if this is necessary to protect the child.