

# INFORMATION SHARING

## 1. What is 'Information Sharing'?

Sharing information is crucial to safeguarding and protecting adults & children from harm. Poor information sharing is repeatedly flagged as an issue in adult, child & domestic reviews.

Practitioners cannot help protect those at risk of harm, if they do not have an understanding of the circumstances.

Information viewed in silo, rarely gives the full picture.

In some cases information is shared, but practitioners:

- Do not check they understand what and why the information is being shared
- Fail to act on the information
- Fail to share the information

## 2. Key Messages

Use the '7 Golden Rules' when sharing information.

Fears about breaching data protection and GDPR regulations must not stand in the way of the need to safeguard and protect.

Obtaining consent to share from the person is best practice, but in some circumstances you can share without consent. Make sure you are familiar with your protocols.

Nobody should assume that someone else will pass on critical information.

Make sure you are giving the right information to the right person, in a safe and secure way.

Be clear on what you are expecting the receiver to do with the information

It is your responsibility to follow up the outcome of information shared

If a decision is made not to share information, record the reasoning why

Act on information shared, it may alter your decision or approach



## 4. Resources

- Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners
- NHS - Information Sharing Policy
- Information sharing for community safety
- Solihull LSCP - Consent and Information Sharing Briefing
- Solihull LSCP - Examples of Information Sharing
- Solihull LSCP - Making a referral to children's services guide
- SSAB - Information Sharing One Minute Guide

Click on the text above to access the link

## 3. What Does This Mean for Me?

- How do we share information?
- What do you consider legitimate reasons to share information?
- Do you always record when information has been shared or requested?
- Do you know you can use safeguarding escalation policy to address concerns about information sharing?
- Your practice must be compliant with organisations information governance processes