

What is information sharing in safeguarding?

Information sharing is vital to good Safeguarding practice for children and adults at risk. Sharing relevant information with the correct organisations can prevent abuse and neglect for children and adults at risk. For adults at risk, good mental capacity practice is about empowering and assisting them to make their own, informed decisions for themselves. However, sharing information can be worrisome for some individuals or organisations that wish to share information to keep someone safe, without some basic knowledge and guidance.

Can I share by law?

Relevant information can be lawfully shared if its intention is to keep a child or adult at risk safe from neglect, physical, mental, or emotional abuse or to protect a child or adult at risk from potentially suffering from neglect, physical, mental, or emotional abuse. Important to remember- GDPR/ Data Protection/ Consent **DOES NOT** trump genuine concern or safety of an individual. An adult at risk or child's safety and wellbeing should always be priority and information share with the right people in order to do so.

7 Golden Rules of Information Sharing



<https://www.collidu.com/presentation-information-sharing>

1. Necessary

Is sharing information in this case needed? Could you prevent a child or adult at risk from harm or further harm by sharing?

2. Proportionate

Does the information you are sharing seem proportionate to the purpose you intend? Are you sharing the right amount of information and detail to the intended outcome or reason?

3. Relevant

Is the information you are sharing relevant to the concern or the organisation you are sharing with?

4. Adequate

Is the information you are sharing of good quality allowing the intended receiver to understand and act?

5. Accurate

Is the information truthful and accurate in detail? Information should not be embellished or changed in any way. Only use direct quotes where necessary and clear, precise detail to the best of your account or memory.

6. Timely

Do not hold onto information that needs to be shared, particularly when urgent. The longer the information takes to be received by the intended organisation the more danger the child or adult at risk could suffer.

7. Secure

Share information securely and safely. Keep records stored safely on IT systems or locked draws. Only relevant people/ organisations should see the information you are sharing.

Mental Capacity- Adults

Mental capacity is the term used to describe whether an adult has the cognition and ability to make informed decisions about themselves. Capacity can be described as a spectrum. And some adults may have different levels of capacity at different times. For example, an adult 'in drink' could be considered to not have capacity in that moment in time, even if usually they are deemed to have full capacity. Or some adults with conditions such as dementia may find they have capacity in some situations more than others. Determining if someone has capacity to consent to their information being shared does not need to be tricky.

Determining Capacity to Share information- The four C's

Context- Does the person understand the situation they are facing?

Choices- Does the person understand the options?

Consequences- Does the person understand the possible ramifications of choosing various options?

Consistency- Do they fluctuate in their understanding of choices?

To learn more about mental capacity use this link

<https://www.scie.org.uk/mca/practice/assessing-capacity/#:~:text=Understand%20information%20given%20to%20them,eye%20or%20squeezing%20a%20hand.>

Closing Statement

Information sharing is vital to keeping children and adults at risk safe from harm. Although it is important to try and obtain consent to share where applicable and safe to do so, where it can not be obtained but the risk is still present you MUST share the information with the relevant person or organisation i.e. Police, safeguarding or management. If you feel unsure about sharing a concern, discuss the details with your local authority adults or children's safeguarding board.

VCSE Safeguarding Support

For support implementing the above or reviewing the practices you already have in place. Please contact Forum/ Sector connect to arrange. Follow link for details

<https://view.pagetiger.com/Safeguarding-poster-Forum>

Useful Websites

To read the Policy on information sharing for children and young people-

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/623c57d28fa8f540eea34c27/Information_sharing_advice_practitioners_safeguarding_services.pdf

For support with all needs relating to the VCSE sector-

<https://northbankforum.org.uk/>

A wide range of support available for the VCSE sector-

<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/about-us/>

For safeguarding children's learning and updates-

https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/?gclid=aw.ds&gad_source=1&gclid=EAlaIqobChMImtXfvILQgwMVxiR0CR1xBQIAEAAYASACEgKQMvD_BwE&gclid=aw.ds

Government related guidance for the VCSE- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/voluntary-and-community-sector-organisations-who-can-give-you-extra-support>

A partner to Forum CIO and provider of support and training- <https://hullcvs.org.uk/>

Safeguarding adults information and updates- <https://www.anncrafttrust.org/>

Safeguarding adults legislation-

<https://www.scie.org.uk/safeguarding/adults/introduction/what-is>

Safeguarding children's legislation-

<https://www.childprotectioncompany.com/safeguarding-children/legislation-for-safeguarding/>

Information regarding the role of the LADO- <https://national-lado-network.co.uk/the-role-of-the-lado-local-authority-designated-officer/>

For North East Lincolnshire children's Safeguarding- <https://www.safernel.co.uk/>

Hull Safeguarding Childrens partnership- <https://www.hull.gov.uk/safeguarding/hull-safeguarding-children-partnership>

References

<https://northbankforum.org.uk/>

<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/about-us/>

https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/?gclid=aw.ds&gad_source=1&gclid=EAlaIQobChMImtXfvILQgwMVxIRoCR1xBQIAEAAAYASACEgKQMvD_BwE&gclid=aw.ds

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<https://hullcvs.org.uk/>

<https://www.anncrafttrust.org/>

<https://www.scie.org.uk/safeguarding/adults/introduction/what-is>

<https://www.childprotectioncompany.com/safeguarding-children/legislation-for-safeguarding/>

<https://www.parliament.uk/site-information/glossary/legislation/>

<https://national-lado-network.co.uk/the-role-of-the-lado-local-authority-designated-officer/>

<https://www.virtual-college.co.uk/faqs/online-courses/safeguarding/legislation/children>

<https://safeguarding.network/content/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/The-seven-golden-rules-to-sharing-information.pdf>