

# Seven golden rules for information sharing...

Information sharing is essential for identifying potential safeguarding concerns when working with children, young people and their families. This advice relates to sharing information about individual children and, where necessary, information about family members and other people who might put a child at risk of harm.

Statutory guidance identifies seven golden rules set out by central government to make things clearer for everyone.

For more information you can go to:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66320b06c084007696fca731/Info\\_sharing\\_advice\\_content\\_May\\_2024.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66320b06c084007696fca731/Info_sharing_advice_content_May_2024.pdf)



**1** **The Data Protection Act & GDPR is not a barrier to sharing information** but protecting a child from harm take priority over protecting their privacy.

**2** **Be honest and engaging where you can** and explain what you intend to do with the information, who you intend to share it with and why.

**3** **Consent should always be considered even if a child is at risk of harm, however** whilst it is good practice to ensure transparency about your decisions, you should consider the safety of the child prior to discussing any potential concerns or referrals.

**4** **Seek advice whenever you are uncertain or do not fully understand the legal framework.** Do not leave a child at risk of harm because you have concerns you might be criticised.

**5** **Ensure that when you are receiving information you are storing it correctly and protecting identities** to prevent their details becoming known to an abuser or associate.

**6** **Necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate and accurate:** Ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those people who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely.

**7** **Keep a record** of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share then record what you have shared and for what purpose.

