

1

### BACKGROUND

Sharing information is crucial to safeguarding – poor information sharing is a key factor that is repeatedly flagged up as an issue in Child Safeguarding Reviews and Safeguarding Adults reviews, where poor information sharing has resulted in missed opportunities to take action to safeguard a child or adult at risk.



## Information Sharing

2

### WHY IT MATTERS 1

Effective safeguarding requires professionals to work together in partnership, between agencies and, sometimes, across geographical boundaries. We need to be confident in knowing when, and how, to share information and ensure that we do so in line with agency processes and legislation. This does not mean that we avoid sharing information.

7

### Further information

- [www.gov.uk/information-sharingadvice](http://www.gov.uk/information-sharingadvice)
- [www.scie.org.uk/social-work/recording](http://www.scie.org.uk/social-work/recording)



3

### 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 and adults 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 safeguarding a child or adult at risk.

6

### The 7 golden rule

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

5

### Things to consider

Decisions regarding information sharing, whether the decision is to share or not, should be recorded, with reasons for the decision. If the decision is not to share information, it is good practice to inform the requester of this.

Remember: The most important consideration is whether sharing information is likely to safeguard and protect a child or adult at risk.

GDPR is not a barrier – remember that data protection and regulation law is not intended as a barrier to info sharing – it helps us to share the right information, in the right way, for the right reasons.

4

### Information

The Government has published seven principles to help practitioners share information between organisations. Information sharing should be:

1. Necessary and proportionate
2. Relevant
3. Adequate
4. Accurate
5. Timely
6. Secure
7. Recorded.