

Wigan Safeguarding Children's Partnership – Information Sharing – 7 Minute Briefing

Information Sharing Definition

The term information sharing is used to describe the process whereby practitioners use their professional judgement and experience to decide what, how, when, why and which agencies/practitioners they share personal information about the children and families they are working with in order to promote positive outcomes for children and families.

Themes from Wigan Review Processes which co-occur with Information Sharing

- Reliance on self-reporting without triangulation
- Over optimism
- Lack of professional curiosity
- Lack of use of resolution policy/professional challenge
- Lack of critical analysis
- Lack of understanding in relation to the support afforded by other agencies
- Poor agency representation at/missed opportunities to convene statutory meetings
- Start again processes of assessment/intervention

What does good look like?

"Practitioners should be proactive in sharing information as early as possible to help identify, assess and respond to risks or concerns about the safety and welfare of children, whether this is when problems are first emerging, or where a child is already known to local authority children's social care (e.g. they are being supported as a child in need or have a child protection plan). Practitioners should be alert to sharing important information about any adults with whom that child has contact, which may impact the child's safety or welfare. 26. Information sharing is also essential for the identification of patterns of behaviour when a child is at risk of going missing or has gone missing, when multiple children appear associated to the same context or locations of risk, or in relation to children in the secure estate where there may be multiple local authorities involved in a child's care. It will be for local safeguarding partners to consider how they will build positive relationships with other local areas to ensure that relevant information is shared in a timely and proportionate way." (Working Together, 2018).

Why is this important to Wigan?

The Deal for Children and Young People promotes partnership working, linking in with those services with the most frequent contact with children and families. The approach promotes the early identification of issues, providing timely interventions and integrated care. Our service offer is tailored to the needs of each family. The borough continues to develop service delivery which drives efficient and effective outcomes.

What can we consider- The 7 Golden Rules (Information Sharing Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding service children, young people, parents and carers, 2018)

1. Remember that the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Data Protection Act 2018 and human rights law are not barriers to justified information sharing, but provide a framework to ensure that personal information about living individuals is shared appropriately.
2. Be open and honest with the individual (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.

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3. Seek advice from other practitioners, or your information governance lead, if you are in any doubt about sharing the information concerned, without disclosing the identity of the individual where possible.

4. Where possible, share information with consent, and where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to having their information shared. Under the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 you may share information without consent if, in your judgement, there is a lawful basis to do so, such as where safety may be at risk. You will need to base your judgement on the facts of the case. When you are sharing or requesting personal information from someone, be clear of the basis upon which you are doing so. Where you do not have consent, be mindful that an individual might not expect information to be shared.

5. Consider safety and well-being: base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the individual and others who may be affected by their actions.

6. Necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure: ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those individuals who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely (see principles).

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, with whom and for what purpose.

What can you do right now?

Do's

- Ensure your case recording is up to date
- Ensure that you have up to date information and contact details for agencies working with families
- Ensure you are triangulating information shared by families regarding other service involvements.
- Hold yourself and other agencies to account with regards to information sharing, the completion of actions and attendance and contributions at meetings
- Speak with your line manager for further support.
- Stay up to date with policy and procedure in relation to information sharing.

Don't

- Delay recording or information sharing
- Normalise concerns just because they are frequent
- Rely on single agency systems to provide wrap around support.
- Assume another service will address an issue presented to you.

Want to learn more?

- [The Deal for Children and Young People](#)
- [Information sharing for safeguarding practitioners](#)
- [Working together to safeguard children](#)
- [Information Sharing Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding service children, young people, parents and carers](#)

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