

Possible questions about the [Information Sharing Duty Statutory Guidance 2026](#)

Q. Do I need consent to share information with any partner agency?

- A.** Within this statutory guidance you do not need consent to share information if sharing the information will support someone assessing a risk/need; make a decision; provide support or take action. However, at all times you must consider gaining consent as not only good practice, but also about building trust across partnerships for families.

Under the Information Sharing Duty, consent is not required to share information where sharing is necessary to support safeguarding or promote the welfare of a child, and the statutory conditions are met. However, practitioners should continue to work transparently with children, young people and families, explaining what information may be shared and why. This duty relates specifically to information sharing and should not be confused with consent for assessments, services or interventions, which may still be required depending on the circumstances.

Q. What if someone calls asking for me to share information, must I share it?

- A.** The same applies with this new statutory guidance, as it always has, with GDPR and Data Protection. We only share information that is necessary, proportionate and relevant to promoting the welfare or safety of children. If you do share information, you must; accurately record what you are sharing; for what purpose; who with; and speak to the person whose information you shared so they are informed. The information you share is what is your agencies and not third-party information.

Q. Can partners now request information from one another about children and their families?

- A.** The same rules apply about relevance, necessity and proportionality regarding the welfare and safety of children. The principles of; accurately

informing and recording the information shared; and of speaking to the person whose information you shared so they are informed, also apply.

Q. Does GDPR (UK) and the Data Protection Act protect what information can be shared.

A. GDPR (UK) and Data Protection Act still apply. However, they are superseded by this statutory guidance if the information being shared will promote the welfare or safety of a child. Information must meet the requirements of the guidance, some of which are summarised above.

Q. Can people still ask for information to be removed that was shared without consent, but met the requirements of the statutory guidance?

A. This is tricky for a straight answer. The Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) has clear guidance on peoples' right to have information '[erased](#)'. Though it must meet certain criteria and there are clear expectations that if data is erased that it must be erased from other partners as well. See [ICO](#) website for more information.

Q. Whose responsibility is it to inform a person that information has been shared?

A. It is responsibility of the person or agency that requests the information, to inform the person what information they have received and why. We should be reminding each other of our responsibilities in doing this.

Q. Are/Will partners be aware of the need to make all such enquiries via phone?

A. If this relates to them informing someone they have shared their information, we will notify them that they need to tell the person verbally. Simply emailing, texting or doing something other than verbally informing someone is not good practice, and limits relationship building.

Q. Do I need to explicitly inform a family that I am sharing information each time it is shared?

A. No. You must ensure that you provide the family with your agencies Privacy Notice when you first collect their information, so they are informed of your organisation's intention.

If there is ongoing involvement with the family, you should ensure that they have received the Privacy Notice and understand what is happening to their data. It is important to engage, explain and where possible gain a family's co-operation to build trusted relationships. For provision of care/statutory services an individual is unlikely to receive effective and safe care or support without the sharing of necessary information. It would be impractical to inform the family of every individual instance of sharing with another organisation. However, families should be aware and included for the duration of multi-agency intervention being provided.