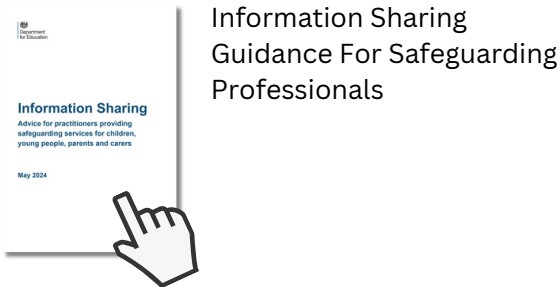
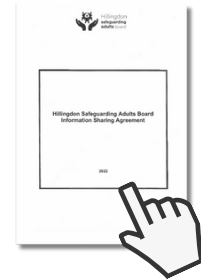


Information Sharing: Advice for Professionals

We know that good information sharing is fundamental to effective safeguarding practice. Statutory safeguarding reviews often identify missed opportunities for professionals to seek and share information about the children, adults and families they are working with.



Hillingdon Safeguarding
Adults Board Information
Sharing Agreement



The first and most important consideration is always whether sharing information is likely to support the safeguarding of a child or vulnerable adult. If yes, share.

The Data Protection Act and GDPR enables the sharing of information to safeguard children and vulnerable adults, when it is necessary, proportionate and justified.

Seeking and sharing relevant information aids the identification and management of risk by helping professionals identify:

- patterns of behaviour and experience
- risks and protective factors
- relevant circumstances
- a richer picture of the lives of those we are trying to support

Key Messages

- If you believe a child or adult is at risk of harm you do not need consent to report this as a safeguarding concern or share information. Where it is safe to do so it is best to discuss your concerns with the adult or family first.
- Sharing information to safeguard children or adults is everyone's responsibility. If you are not sure, get advice.
- Sharing information can be justified solely based on preventing harm to a child or vulnerable adult.
- Always clearly document what you are sharing, why, and with whom.
- Follow up information you have shared, make sure the recipient understands it and has acted upon it.
- Think about who else might hold relevant information and ask for it.



There is a duty under section 7 of the Care Act 2014 on all relevant organisations to cooperate with the local authority in their attempts to protect adults with care and support needs - this can include sharing information to support needs assessments, reviews and safeguarding enquiries.

There is a duty under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 on all relevant organisations to support the local authority in their enquiries about children at risk of significant harm - this includes sharing information.