

## Information Sharing Policy (With Regard to Safeguarding)

There are times when we are required to share information about a child or their family.

These are when:

- there are concerns a child is or may be suffering significant harm
- the 'reasonable cause to believe' a child is or may be suffering significant harm is not clear
- there are concerns about 'serious harm to adults' (such as domestic violence or other matters affecting the welfare of parents)

We inform families about our duty to share information for the above reasons.

Where we have concerns as above, we would normally gain consent from families to share. This does not have to be in writing, but we record in the child's file that we have gained verbal consent as a result of discussing a concern that we need to refer to social care agency.

We do not seek consent from parents to share information where we believe that a child, or sometimes a vulnerable adult, may be endangered by seeking to gain consent. For example where we have cause to believe a parent may try to cover up abuse, or threaten a child.

Where we take a decision to share information without consent that is recorded in the child's file and the reason clearly stated.

Where evidence to support our concerns are not clear we may seek advice from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO : 03330 139 797)

We only share relevant information that is accurate, factual, non-judgemental and up to date.

**We give regard to the HM Government Information Sharing Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers document (July 2018).**



Signed : *Steve Catley*  
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