

01 Background



Safeguarding Adult Reviews frequently highlight failures in multiagency working due to ineffective information sharing. Failures can lead to serious abuse and harm and in some cases, even death. Information sharing between organisations in safeguarding practice is covered in the common law duty of confidentiality, the Data Protection Act, the Human Rights Act and the Crime and Disorder Act. The Mental Capacity Act is also important as those with contact with adults with care and support needs must be able to assess whether someone has the mental capacity to make a decision concerning risk, safety and information sharing.

Why it matters 02



The statutory guidance emphasises the need to share information about safeguarding concerns at an early stage.

Adults have a right to confidentiality, however, that right is not absolute. Sharing the right information, at the right time, with the right people, is fundamental to good safeguarding practice.

If a person refuses intervention or information sharing, their wishes should be respected. However there are some instances where these wishes can be overridden (e.g public interest, crime prevention, life-threatening situations, duress, lack of capacity, court orders)

07

Questions

Do you know when to share information?

And the potential risks of not sharing it?

Do know when and how to raise a safeguarding alert?

Do you routinely record decisions about information sharing with the reasons for the decision?

03



Information

Organisations need to share safeguarding information to:

- Help people get the right support to reduce risk and promote wellbeing
- Prevent death or serious harm that may increase the need for care and support

06



4. Share with consent where appropriate and, where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent. You can still override as above

5. Consider safety and wellbeing,

6. Ensure that the information you share is necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and shared securely, and shared on a 'need to know basis'

7. Keep a record of your decisions

What to do

HM Government has issued guidance on what it refers to as 'the seven golden rules for information sharing' which are to:

1. Remember that the Data Protection Act is not a barrier to sharing information
2. Be open and honest with the person or family from the outset about why, what how and with whom information will or could be shared
3. Seek advice if in doubt

04

- Coordinate safeguarding responses to improve best practice
- Enable early interventions to prevent the escalation of risk
- Reveal patterns of abuse that were previously undetected and that could identify others at risk of abuse
- Identify low-level concerns that may reveal people at risk of abuse
- Help identify people who may pose a risk to others and, where possible, work to reduce offending behaviour



05