

The Information Sharing Duty *is now in force*

Working together. Sharing information.
Safer children.



From **30 September 2026** organisations with safeguarding responsibilities are under a new statutory duty to share relevant information where it may help safeguard and promote the welfare of a child.

What is the duty?

The Information Sharing Duty, introduced through section 16LA of the Children Act 2004, requires relevant organisations and practitioners to share information with each other where it may help safeguard or promote the welfare of a child.



*It's about
what we should
share, not just
what we can share.*

Why is it important?

- ✓ Helps identify and respond to risks earlier
- ✓ Supports better multi-agency working
- ✓ Reduces the chance of children and families falling through gaps
- ✓ Strengthens safeguarding and improves outcomes for children

Who does it apply to?

The duty applies to organisations and practitioners, including:



Local authorities



NHS trusts and integrated care boards



Schools, colleges and childcare settings



Police



Probation and youth justice services



And others with safeguarding responsibilities

Do we need parental consent?



No. Parental consent is not the determining factor for sharing information under the duty.

Practitioners must still act lawfully, proportionately and professionally, but the focus is on the best interests and welfare of the child.

What information should be shared?



Relevant information that may help another organisation carry out its safeguarding or welfare functions. This includes information that may support early help and prevention, not just where there are concerns about significant harm.

Are there any exceptions?



Yes, but they are very limited.

Information does not need to be shared only where a practitioner considers that sharing it would be more detrimental to the child than not sharing it.

Our collective responsibility

Effective safeguarding depends on effective information sharing.

By working together and sharing the right information at the right time, we can identify risk, provide early help and protect children from harm.



*Different perspectives.
A safer tomorrow.*



**Share information.
Support each other. Keep children safe.**

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026
Section 16LA, Children Act 2004

STRONGER TOGETHER FOR BRIGHTER FUTURES