

## Information Sharing Policy

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 our local social care agency or the NSPCC.

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