DONCASTER SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

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Information Sharing Duty
Quick Guide

What is the information sharing duty?
It places a Legal expectation on agencies to share information where it may help safeguard or promote the welfare of a child.

Why is information sharing important?
- No agency has the full picture.
- Small details can highlight bigger concerns.
- Helps identify needs, assess risk, and provide support.
- Ensures children are seen and receive help.

Should I Share this information?
Follow the steps below to help you make a decision.

Is it about a child?
Does the information relate to an identifiable child under 18?

No → The Information Sharing Duty does not apply.

Yes ↓

It is relevant?
Could the information help safeguard or promote the welfare of the child?

No → Do not share. Keep the information securely.

Yes ↓

Is it necessary and proportionate?
Am I sharing the right information for the safeguarding purpose?

No → Consider if you can share limited or different information.

Yes ↓

Is it safe to share?
Could sharing the information place the child at grater risk or conflict with a specific legal restriction?

No → Seek advice from your safeguarding lead.

Yes ↓

Share the information
Share promptly and securely with the relevant agencies who need to know to support safeguarding or promote the welfare of the child.

Who does the Duty apply to?
Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

You do not need to wait for certainty.
Information does not need to indicate significant harm before it is shared. Concerns about vulnerability, emerging needs or increasing risk may also be relevant.

Do I need consent?
Consent is **not** required to share relevant information where it is necessary to safeguard or promote the welfare of a child. Be open and transparent with children and families where it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Key Message

Share Early
To support early intervention

Think whole picture
Every piece of information matters

Work Together
Multi-agency sharing supports effective safeguarding

Share appropriately
Only share what is necessary and relevant

Share Securely
Follow your organisations information governance procedures