



Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board

## REMEMBER:

INFORMATION SHARING IS CRUCIAL TO PROTECT CHILDREN

### The Seven Golden Rules for Information Sharing

1. **Remember that the General Data Protection Regulations, Data Protection Act 2018 and human rights laws are not barriers** to justify information sharing but provide a framework to ensure that personal information about living individuals is shared appropriately;
2. **Be open and honest** with the individual (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so
3. **Seek advice** from other practitioners or your information governance lead if you are in any doubt about sharing the information concerned, without disclosing the identity of the individual where possible;
4. Where possible share with consent and, where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to having their information shared. **Under the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 you may share information without consent if, in your judgement, there is a lawful reason to do so**, such as where safety may be at risk. You will need to base your judgment on the facts of the case. When you are sharing or requesting personal information from someone, be clear of the basis upon which you are doing so. Where you do not have consent, be mindful that an individual might not expect information to be shared;
5. **Consider safety and well-being:** Base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and wellbeing of the individual and others who may be affected by their actions;
6. **Necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and secure:** Ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those people who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely (Practitioners must always follow their organisation's policy on security for handling personal information);
7. **Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it** - whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose