

WIGAN CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & THEIR FAMILIES STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP & WIGAN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

POLICY STATEMENT

Name Sharing information to improve outcomes for children and young people

Purpose This statement sets out principles on sharing information about children, young people and their families by the children's workforce employed in the above organisations.

Policy

The above organisations are committed to the lawful sharing of information in order to fulfil administration functions (statutory duties) conferred on them by Sections 10 & 11 of the Children Act 2004:

As a means for safeguarding children and young people from abuse, harm and exploitation; and, providing services that maximise aspects of all children and young people's well-being: physical and mental health; protection from harm and neglect; education and training; the contribution made by them to society; and, social and economic well-being.

Commitment to this policy will be demonstrated by organisations:

- Fully implementing the multi-agency Information Sharing Protocol (and associated data exchange procedures and practice standards) by ensuring staff in their organisation are:
 - Aware of the multi-agency protocol, and their responsibilities under the protocol; and,
 - Encouraged and supported to attend training sessions about sharing information.
- Actively contributing to, and championing the development of, a culture of trust and confidence amongst partner organisations - by working within, and regularly reviewing, the framework for information sharing within the delivery of services for children, young people and their families.
- Lawfully providing information about children, young people and their families to any other partner organisation at no financial cost to that organisation.
- Ensuring that any partner organisation (statutory, voluntary or independent) carrying out contracted or commissioned services, delivers such services in accordance with this policy.

Members of the Children's Workforce in Wigan Borough should lawfully share information with colleagues as a basis for improving outcomes for children, young people and their families:

- Whilst the issue of 'consent' - an individual's permission for a worker to share information about them with another worker/agency - is important in building trust between individuals and workers, information to safeguard children and promote their well being must be shared within and between individuals and organisations in accordance with relevant legislation.
 - **Refusal by an individual to give consent should not be used as a reason for not sharing information that might protect a child or young person from abuse, harm or exploitation, or that might enhance physical, social, emotional, cognitive or other aspects of their development.**

Background documents

- Children Act 2004
- Statutory guidance on the role and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services
- Guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004
- Cross-governmental guidance on Information Sharing

- The Children, Young People and their Families Strategic Partnership in Wigan Borough multi-agency Information Sharing Protocol.