7 Minute Briefing

Information Sharing

RNOH Safeguarding Children Team

1 Background

•Sharing information is crucial to safeguarding - poor information sharing is repeatedly flagged up as an issue in Case Reviews.

•In some cases information sharing has happened, but practitioners have not checked that their meaning had been understood, so that some information has been over emphasised or under-emphasised.

2 Why it Matters

•Fears about information sharing cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children at risk of abuse and neglect. No practitioner should assume that someone else will pass on information which may be critical to keeping a child safe (HM Government, 2015)

•This statement applies to adults at risk too.

3 INFORMATION

•The Government has published seven principles to help practitioners share information between organisations. Information sharing should be:
•1. Necessary and proportionate
•2. Relevant
•3. Adequate
•4. Accurate
•5. Timely
•6. Secure
•7. Recorded

4 DECISIONS

•Whether the decisions to share or not, should be recorded, with reasons for the decision.

•If the decision is not to share information, it is good practice to inform the requester of this.

•Remember: The most important consideration is whether sharing information is likely to safeguard and protect a child or adult at risk

5 WHAT TO DO

•- Use the "seven golden rules to sharing information"

•- Consider if there is clear and legitimate purpose for sharing information

•- Identify how much information to share

•-Distinguish fact from opinion

6 ENSURE

•- You are giving the right information to the right individual

•- Where possible you are sharing the information securely

•- Inform the individual that the information has been shared, as long as this will not create or increase risk of harm

7 QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

•How do we share information?
•What do we consider to be legitimate reasons to share information?
•Do we always record when we have requested or shared information, with the reasons why?
•Advice is available:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice