

# New Information Sharing Duty: What Professionals Need to Know

## What is changing?

From 30<sup>th</sup> September 2026, a new Information Sharing Duty applies to a range of organisations involved in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The duty has been introduced through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 and aims to support more consistent and timely information sharing between safeguarding partners and relevant agencies.

## What does the duty mean?

If you work for an organisation covered by the legislation and you hold information that could help another agency safeguard a child or promote their welfare, you are generally expected to share it. The focus is on:

- helping practitioners build a fuller picture of a child's circumstances
- supporting earlier intervention
- improving multi-agency decision making
- reducing situations where important information is not shared.

***If information you hold may help another safeguarding agency understand risk, assess need, make a decision or provide support to a child, you should consider sharing it.***

If you are a **relevant person**:

- An organisation named in S11 of Children Act 2004
- Designated childcare or education agency
- Provider delivering services in arrangement with either of the above.

**AND:**

Hold information about a child or another individual that relates to the child, and consider the information is relevant to safeguarding or promoting the welfare of the child.

Then **you should**:

Share that information to another relevant person if it will enable them to fulfil their relevant functions, including in response to an information request from that relevant person.

**Unless:**

Sharing the information would be more detrimental to the child than not sharing.

## What the duty does NOT mean

**The new duty does NOT mean:**

- Any information about a child can automatically be sent to the Front Door.
- Every concern becomes a Children's Social Care referral.
- Professional judgement no longer applies.
- Organisations can disregard data protection principles.
- Existing safeguarding thresholds disappear.
- Existing KSCMP information sharing arrangements and referral pathways no longer apply.

**Practitioners should continue to:**

- Follow local safeguarding procedures, like the Kent Support Levels Guidance.
- Make referrals where thresholds are met.
- Seek advice and consultation where appropriate.
- Share information lawfully, proportionately and for a clear safeguarding purpose.
- Record decisions and rationale.

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## What is KSCMP doing?

KSCMP is currently reviewing the final statutory guidance and considering the implications for local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. This includes:

- reviewing existing information sharing guidance and resources
- considering whether any local procedures need updating
- identifying what support practitioners may need
- working with partner agencies to ensure a consistent understanding of the new duty.

Further information and guidance will be shared once this work is complete.

***The new duty strengthens expectations around sharing relevant safeguarding information. It does not remove professional judgement, local safeguarding thresholds, referral pathways or existing information sharing processes.***

*Until further guidance is issued, practitioners should continue to follow existing KSCMP procedures and their own organisational policies when sharing information or making referrals.*

## Mythbusting

**"The new law means I must send all concerns to the Front Door."**

No. Existing referral pathways and thresholds still apply.

**"GDPR prevents me sharing safeguarding information."**

Data protection law supports appropriate safeguarding information sharing.

**"I can share everything I know about a family."**

Information should still be relevant, necessary and proportionate.

**"The duty replaces professional judgement on sharing information."**

Professional judgement and decision making remains essential.

## Resources and links

- [Department for Education: Information Sharing to Safeguard Children and Young People statutory guidance](#)
- [Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Partnership: Information Sharing webpage](#)
- [Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Partnership: Information Sharing to Safeguard Children factsheet](#)
- [Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Partnership: Consent in Safeguarding Children video explainer](#)