

Children's Safeguarding and Family Help Practice on a Page - Consent and information sharing

Camden's Children and Learning Directorate uses relational practice as the foundation for all our work. Our relational practice framework is based on our values, focused on our purpose: to work with children, families and communities to make a positive, lasting difference to their futures, so they have the best start in life.

1. Children's Safeguarding and Family Help (CSFH) has a legal basis for gathering and sharing information about children and families without the agreement of families under the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 and the Children Act 1989 in order to safeguard a child or person at risk of harm.
2. It is an expectation that social workers work respectfully and in partnership with families within the spirit of the Act, and that where possible, social workers aim to reach a consensus with families on information sharing. Our aim is to work in collaboration with families and best practice is to engage with families and seek co-operation for information sharing at the earliest possible opportunity.
3. We have a privacy notice which enables us to make enquiries and work with families whilst we seek their co-operation. This should be explained to families when CSFH first becomes involved. We ask referring agencies to discuss this with families at the point of referral where appropriate.
4. Information is primarily shared based on whether the request for information is proportionate, relevant and necessary. Consent is not required if the information is needed to safeguard or promote the welfare of a child.
5. If there are safeguarding concerns and parents do not cooperate or engage, parents should be informed that CSFH has a legal basis to gather and share information under the Children Act 1989 without parental agreement in order to ascertain any safeguarding risks to the child.
6. Where it is not possible to establish whether there are safeguarding concerns until further information is gathered, and parents are not co-operating to network checks, information can be gathered.
7. The following will be shared with parents in the event parents do not cooperate:

“We have not sought parental consent as this is not required for sharing information between local authorities and other agencies for the purposes of MASH checks (under GDPR and Working Together).

Working Together To Safeguard Children states: You do not need consent to share personal information. It is one way to comply with the data protection legislation, but not the only way. The UK GDPR provides a number of bases for sharing personal information. It is not necessary to seek consent to share information for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of a child provided that there is a lawful basis to process any personal information required.”
8. If a case is to be closed because it is not possible to gain agreement and the family are not engaging, and there are no safeguarding risks, social workers should ask the referrer to continue to monitor the situation and re-refer if concerns escalate. These decisions should be discussed and agreed by the team manager and recorded in the closing summary.
9. [Camden-Information-Sharing-Statement.pdf](#) is shared on the CSCP website.
10. [CSSW Privacy Notice](#) is shared on Camden's council's website. There is also a set of Data Sharing Agreements which are available on our website here [Data Sharing Agreements \(DSAs\) | Open Data Portal](#)

