

Information Sharing

Briefing note

Guidance published 22 October 2008

The revised HM Government information sharing guidance has been published. It aims to support good practice in information sharing by offering clarity on when and how information can be shared legally and professionally.

Information sharing is key to the Government's goal of delivering better, more efficient public services that are coordinated around the needs of the individual. It is essential to enable early intervention and preventative work, for safeguarding and promoting welfare and for wider public protection. Information sharing is a vital element in improving outcomes for all.

As part of promoting and supporting good practice in information sharing, DCSF and CLG have worked together to update the HM Government information sharing guidance, originally published April 2006. This guidance has been brought up-to-date to reflect current policy and extended to cover practitioners working with adults and families as well as those working with children and young people.

The guidance is most relevant to those practitioners at the front-line who have to make case-by-case decisions about whether and what to share. The guidance is also for managers and advisors who support these practitioners in their decision making. It does not deal in any detail with arrangements for pre-planned or bulk sharing of personal information between IT systems or organisations.

A wide variety of stakeholders were involved in the development of the updated guidance, from across all sectors and at all levels from policy makers to front-line staff. When the guidance was published in October 2008, it had been formally endorsed by 25 organisations.

Following the launch of the guidance, we will continue to work with delivery partners and key stakeholder organisations to provide advice and support on the further activities required to embed good practice in information sharing.

Guidance and other materials available at www.ecm.gov.uk/informationsharing.

Additional information

The guidance package includes:

- Information Sharing: Guidance for practitioner and managers;
- Information Sharing: Pocket guide;
- Information Sharing: Case examples (online only);
- Information Sharing: Training materials (online only); and
- Information Sharing: Further guidance on legal issues (online only).

Order details:

You can download this publication or order copies online at:
www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications

Information Sharing: Guidance for practitioners and managers
Search using the ref: 00807-2008

Information Sharing: Pocket guide
Search using the ref: 00808-2008

Copies of this publication can also be obtained from:
Department for Children, Schools and Families Publications
PO Box 5050
Sherwood Park, Annesley
Nottingham NG15 0DJ
Tel 0845 60 222 60
Fax 0845 60 333 60
Textphone 0845 60 555 60

Information Sharing: Guidance for practitioners and managers
Please quote ref 00807-2008BKT-EN

Information Sharing: Pocket guide
Please quote ref 00808-2008BKT-EN