



Camden Information Sharing Statement

Information sharing between agencies when working together to safeguard children and promote their welfare

Information sharing between agencies working with children is necessary in order to safeguard children's welfare as one agency will not hold all the relevant information needed to get a picture of the child's lived experience and identify and calculate risk.

The Children Act 2004 provides agencies with a legal basis on which to share information with CSSW without parental agreement in order to safeguard a child.

That means information needs to be shared in order to:

- protect them from maltreatment
- prevent impairment of their health or development
- ensure that they grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care: and
- take action to ensure they have the best outcomes.

Where any of these factors are met, agencies may refer children to CSSW or provide information to CSSW under network checks without the agreement of parents.

However, parents should be informed that a referral will be made unless this will:

- put the child at risk of further harm
- interfere with a criminal investigation
- cause undue delay.

The Act also places a duty on agencies to co-operate with CSSW by providing information about children and families as requested. Under the Children Act 1989 CSSW does not require parental consent to gather information in order to safeguard a child's welfare and will indicate on any written request for information where families have given consent or where consent is not required under the Act.