

**SHARING INFORMATION POLICY**

**Reviewed February 2024**

**Date of next review February 2025**

**Sharing Information – Confidentiality and Data Protection**

Child protection raises issues of confidentiality which should be clearly understood by all.

Staff and representatives have a responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with other agencies, particularly investigative agencies.

Clear boundaries of confidentiality will be communicated at all times to service users. Staff must only discuss their concerns with their line manager or the Designated Officer for child protection. It is their decision to pass on their concerns to agencies that need to know.

Where possible, consent should be obtained from the child before sharing personal information with third parties. Where a disclosure has been made, staff and representatives should let the child know the position regarding their role and what action they will take as a result and why. In some circumstances, obtaining consent may be neither possible nor desirable as the safety of the child is paramount.

All child protection records should be kept secure and accessible only by relevant staff