

## Record keeping

	Page Number
Children's records and data protection	2
Confidentiality, recording and sharing information	4
Client access to records	10
Chronology procedure	13
Children's records	14
Transfer of records to school	16
The settings records	20
Working in partnership with other agencies	22

## Children's records and data protection

During an outbreak of serious illness of disease (such as Covid-19) there may be the need to keep additional records as part of outbreak management. A record is kept of individual cases of children/families who are self-isolating due to symptoms as per usual record-keeping procedures. In all cases the principles of data protection are maintained.

### Principles of data protection: lawful processing of data

Personal data shall be:

- a) *processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject*
- b) *collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is not compatible for these purposes*
- c) *adequate, relevant and necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed*
- d) *accurate, and where necessary, kept up to date; every reasonable step must be taken to ensure that personal data that are inaccurate, having regard to the purpose for which they are processed, are erased or rectified without delay*
- e) *kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed*
- f) *processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures ("integrity and confidentiality")* Article 5 of the General Data Protection Regulations (2018)

*Educators should process data, record and share information in line with the principles above.*

### General safeguarding recording principles

- It is vital that all relevant interactions linked to safeguarding children's and individual's welfare are accurately recorded.
- All recordings should be made as soon as possible after the event.
- Recording should be to a good standard and clear enough to enable someone other than the person who wrote it, to fully understand what is being described.
- Recording can potentially be viewed by a parent/carer or Ofsted inspector, by the successors of the educators who record, and may be used in a family Court as relevant evidence to decide whether a child should remain with their biological parents, or be removed to live somewhere else. Recording needs to be fair and accurate, non-judgemental in tone, descriptive, relevant, and should clearly show what action has been taken to safeguard a child, and reflect decision-making relating to safeguarding.
- Recording should be complete, it should show what the outcome has been, what happened to referrals, why decisions were made to share or not share information, and it should contain summaries and minutes of relevant multi-agency meetings and multi-agency communication.

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- If injuries or other safeguarding concerns are being described the description must be clear and accurate and should give specific details of the injury observed and where it is located.

### **The principles of GDPR and effective safeguarding recording practice are upheld**

- Recording is factual and non-judgemental.
- The procedure for retaining and archiving personal data and the retention schedule and subsequent destruction of data is adhered to.
- Parents/carers and children where appropriate are made aware of what will be recorded and in what circumstances information is shared, prior to their child starting at the setting. Parents/carers are issued with a Privacy notice and should give signed, informed consent to recording and information sharing prior to their child attending the setting. If a parent/carer would not expect their information to be shared in any given situation, normally, they should be asked for consent prior to sharing.
- There are circumstances where information is shared without consent to safeguard children. These are detailed below, but in summary, information can be shared without consent if an educator is unable to gain consent, cannot reasonably be expected to gain consent, or gaining consent places a child at risk.
- Records can be accessed by and information may be shared with local authority professionals. If there are significant safeguarding or welfare concerns, information may also be shared with a family proceedings Court or the police. Educators are aware of information sharing processes and all families should give informed consent to the way the setting will use, store and share information.
- Recording should be completed as soon as possible and within 5 working days as a maximum for safeguarding recording timescales.
- If a child attends more than one setting, a two-way flow of information is established between the parents/carers, and other providers. Where appropriate, comments from others (as above) are incorporated into the child's records.

### **Children's personal files**

- Appropriate files must be used. Children's personal files are kept in a filing cabinet, which is always locked when not in use.
- Correspondence in relation to a child is read, any actions noted, and filed immediately
- Access to children's personal files is restricted to those authorised to see them and make entries in them, this being the setting manager, deputy or designated person for child protection, the child's key person, or other staff as authorised by the setting manager.
- Children's personal files are not handed over to anyone else to look at.
- Children's files may be handed to Ofsted as part of an inspection or investigation; they may also be handed to local authority staff conducting a S11 audit as long as authorisation is seen.

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## Confidentiality, recording and sharing information

*'Sharing information is an intrinsic part of any frontline practitioners' job when working with children and young people. The decisions about how much information to share, with whom and when, can have a profound impact on individuals' lives. It could ensure that an individual receives the right services at the right time and prevent a need from becoming more acute and difficult to meet. At the other end of the spectrum it could be the difference between life and death.'*

*Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (HM Government 2024)*

Most things that happen between the family, the child and the setting are confidential to the setting. In certain circumstances information is shared, for example, a child protection concern will be shared with other professionals including social care or the police, and settings will give information to children's social workers who undertake S17 or S47 investigations. Normally parents should give informed consent before information is shared, but in some instances, such as if this may place a child at risk, or a serious offence may have been committed, parental consent should not be sought before information is shared. Local Safeguarding Partners (LSP) procedures should be followed when making referrals, and advice sought if there is a lack of clarity about whether or not parental consent is needed before making a referral due to safeguarding concerns.

- Staff discuss children's general progress and well-being together in meetings, but more sensitive information is restricted to designated persons and key persons and shared with other staff on a need-to-know basis.
- Members of staff do not discuss children with staff who are not involved in the child's care, nor with other parents or anyone else outside of the organisation, unless in a formal and lawful way.
- Discussions with other professionals should take place within a professional framework, not on an informal basis. Staff should expect that information shared with other professionals will be shared in some form with parent/carers and other professionals, unless there is a formalised agreement to the contrary, i.e. if a referral is made to children's social care, the identity of the referring agency and some of the details of the referral is likely to be shared with the parent/carer by children's social care.
- It is important that members of staff explain to parents that sometimes it is necessary to write things down in their child's file and explain the reasons why.
- When recording general information, staff should ensure that records are dated correctly and the time is included where necessary, and signed.

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- Welfare/child protection concerns are recorded on 6.1b Safeguarding incident reporting form July 21. Information is clear and unambiguous (fact, not opinion), although it may include the educator's thoughts on the impact on the child.
- Records are non-judgemental and do not reflect any biased or discriminatory attitude.
- Not everything needs to be recorded, but significant events, discussions and telephone conversations must be recorded at the time that they take place.
- Recording should be proportionate and necessary.
- When deciding what is relevant, the things that cause concern are recorded as well as action taken to deal with the concern. The appropriate recording format is filed within the child's file.
- Information shared with other agencies is done in line with these procedures.
- Where a decision is made to share information (or not), reasons are recorded.
- Staff may use a computer to type reports, or letters. Where this is the case, the typed document is deleted from the computer and only the hard copy is kept.
- Electronic copy is downloaded onto a disc, labelled with the child's name and stored in the child's file. No documents are kept on a hard drive because computers do not have facilities for confidential user folders.
- The setting is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Staff are expected to follow guidelines issued by the ICO, at <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guidance-index/>
- Additional guidance in relation to information sharing about adults is given by the Social Care Institute for Excellence, at [www.scie.org.uk/safeguarding/adults/practice/sharing-information](http://www.scie.org.uk/safeguarding/adults/practice/sharing-information)
- Staff should follow guidance including Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE 2023); Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners Providing Safeguarding Services to Children, Young People, Parents and Carers 2024 and What to do if you're Worried a Child is Being Abused (HMG 2024)

### **Confidentiality definition**

- Personal information of a private or sensitive nature, which is not already lawfully in the public domain or readily available from another public source, and has been shared in a relationship, where the person giving the information could reasonably expect it would not be shared with others.
- Staff can be said to have a 'confidential relationship' with families. Some families share information about themselves readily; members of staff need to check whether parents regard this information as confidential or not.

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- Parents sometimes share information about themselves with other parents as well as staff; the setting cannot be held responsible if information is shared beyond those parents whom the person has confided in.
- Information shared between parents in a group is usually bound by a shared agreement that the information is confidential and not discussed outside. The setting manager is not responsible should that confidentiality be breached by participants.
- Where third parties share information about an individual; staff need to check if it is confidential, both in terms of the party sharing the information and of the person whom the information concerns.
- Information shared is confidential to the setting.
- Educators ensure that parents/carers understand that information given confidentially will be shared appropriately within the setting (for instance with a designated person, during supervision) and should not agree to withhold information from the designated person or their line manager.

### **Breach of confidentiality**

- A breach of confidentiality occurs when confidential information is not authorised by the person who provided it, or to whom it relates, without lawful reason to share.
- The impact is that it may put the person in danger, cause embarrassment or pain.
- It is not a breach of confidentiality if information was provided on the basis that it would be shared with relevant people or organisations with lawful reason, such as to safeguard an individual at risk or in the public interest, or where there was consent to the sharing.
- Procedure 07.1 Children's records and data protection must be followed.

### **Exception**

- GDPR enables information to be shared lawfully within a legal framework. The Data Protection Act 2018 balances the right of the person about whom the data is stored with the possible need to share information about them.
- The Data Protection Act 2018 contains "safeguarding of children and individuals at risk" as a processing condition enabling "special category personal data" to be processed and to be shared. This allows educators to share without consent if it is not possible to gain consent, if consent cannot reasonably be gained, or if gaining consent would place a child at risk.
- Confidential information may be shared without authorisation - either from the person who provided it or to whom it relates, if it is in the public interest and it is not possible or reasonable to gain consent or if gaining consent would place a child or other person at risk. The Data

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Protection Act 2018 enables data to be shared to safeguard children and individuals at risk. Information may be shared to prevent a crime from being committed or to prevent harm to a child, Information can be shared without consent in the public interest if it is necessary to protect someone from harm, prevent or detect a crime, apprehend an offender, comply with a Court order or other legal obligation or in certain other circumstances where there is sufficient public interest.

- Sharing confidential information without consent is done only in circumstances where consideration is given to balancing the needs of the individual with the need to share information about them.
- When deciding if public interest should override a duty of confidence, consider the following:
  - is the intended disclosure appropriate to the relevant aim?
  - what is the vulnerability of those at risk?
  - is there another equally effective means of achieving the same aim?
  - is sharing necessary to prevent/detect crime and uphold the rights and freedoms of others?
  - is the disclosure necessary to protect other vulnerable people?

The decision to share information should not be made as an individual, but with the backing of the designated person who can provide support, and sometimes ensure protection, through appropriate structures and procedures.

### **Obtaining consent**

Consent to share information is not always needed. However, it remains best practice to engage with people to try to get their agreement to share where it is appropriate and safe to do so.

Using consent as the lawful basis to store information is only valid if the person is fully informed and competent to give consent and they have given consent of their own free will, and without coercion from others, Individuals have the right to withdraw consent at any time.

You should not seek consent to disclose personal information in circumstances where:

- someone has been hurt and information needs to be shared quickly to help them
- obtaining consent would put someone at risk of increased harm
- obtaining consent would prejudice a criminal investigation or prevent a person being questioned or caught for a crime they may have committed
- the information must be disclosed regardless of whether consent is given, for example if a Court order or other legal obligation requires disclosure

**NB. The serious crimes indicated are those that may harm a child or adult; reporting confidential information about crimes such as theft or benefit fraud are not in this remit.**

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- Settings are not obliged to report suspected benefit fraud or tax evasion committed by clients, however, they are obliged to tell the truth if asked by an investigator.
- Parents who confide that they are working while claiming should be informed of this and should be encouraged to check their entitlements to benefits, as they it may be beneficial to them to declare earnings and not put themselves at risk of prosecution.

### **Consent**

- Parents share information about themselves and their families. They have a right to know that any information they share will be regarded as confidential as outlined in 07.1a Privacy notice. They should also be informed about the circumstances, and reasons for the setting being under obligation to share information.
- Parents are advised that their informed consent will be sought in most cases, as well as the circumstances when consent may not be sought, or their refusal to give consent overridden.
- Where there are concerns about whether or not to gain parental consent before sharing information, for example when making a Channel or Prevent referral the setting manager must inform their line manager for clarification before speaking to parents
- Consent must be informed - that is the person giving consent needs to understand why information will be shared, what will be shared, who will see information, the purpose of sharing it and the implications for them of sharing that information.

### **Separated parents**

- Consent to share need only be sought from one parent. Where parents are separated, this would normally be the parent with whom the child resides.
- Where there is a dispute, this needs to be considered carefully.
- Where the child is looked after, the local authority, as 'corporate parent' may also need to be consulted before information is shared.

### **Age for giving consent**

- A child may have the capacity to understand why information is being shared and the implications. For most children under the age of eight years in a nursery or out of school childcare context, consent to share is sought from the parent, or from a person who has parental responsibility.
- Young persons (16-19 years) are capable of informed consent. Some children from age 13 onwards may have capacity to consent in some situations. Where they are deemed not to have capacity, then someone with parental responsibility must consent. If the child is capable and gives consent, this may override the parent's wish not to give consent.



- Adults at risk due to safeguarding concerns must be deemed capable of giving or withholding consent to share information about them. In this case ‘mental capacity’ is defined in terms of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 Code of Practice (Office of the Public Guardian 2007). It is rare that this will apply in the context of the setting.

**Ways in which consent to share information can occur**

- Policies and procedures set out the responsibility of the setting regarding gaining consent to share information, and when it may not be sought or overridden.
- Information in leaflets to parents, or other leaflets about the provision, including privacy notices.
- Consent forms signed at registration (for example to apply sun cream).
- Notes on confidentiality included on every form the parent signs.
- Parent signatures on forms giving consent to share information about additional needs, or to pass on child development summaries to the next provider/school.

**Further guidance**

Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE 2023)

Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners Providing Safeguarding Services to Children, Young People, Parents and Carers (HMG 2024)

What to do if you're Worried a Child is Being Abused

### ***Client access to records procedures***

Under the General Data Protection Regulations there are additional rights granted to data subjects which must be protected by the setting.

The parent is the 'subject' of the file in the case where a child is too young to give 'informed consent' and has a right to see information that the setting has compiled on them.

- If a parent wishes to see the file, a written request is made, which the setting acknowledges in writing, informing the parent that an arrangement will be made for him/her to see the file contents, subject to third party consent.
- Information must be provided within 30 days of receipt of request. If the request for information is not clear, the manager must receive legal guidance, for instance, from Law-Call for members of the Alliance. In some instances it may be necessary to allow extra time in excess to the 30 days to respond to the request. An explanation must be given to the parent where this is the case. The maximum extension time is 2 months.
- A fee may be charged to the parent for additional requests for the same material, or any requests that will incur excessive administration costs.
- The setting manager informs the Chairperson and legal advice is sought.
- The setting manager goes through the file with the chair and ensures all documents are filed correctly, entries are in date order and that there are no missing pages. They note any information, entry or correspondence or other document which mentions a third party. The setting manager should always ensure that recording is of good quality, accurate, fair, balanced and proportionate and should have quality assurance processes in place to ensure that files are checked for quality regularly and that any issues are addressed promptly.
- Each of those individuals are written to explaining that the subject of the file has requested sight of the file which contains a reference to them, stating what this is.
- They are asked to reply in writing to the setting manager giving or refusing consent for disclosure of that material.
- Copies of these letters and their replies are kept on the child's file.
- Agencies will normally refuse consent to share information, and the parent should be redirected to those agencies for a request to see their file held by that agency.
- Entries where you have contacted another agency may remain, for example, a request for permission from social care to leave in an entry where the parent was already party to that information.

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- Each family member noted on the file is a third party, so where there are separate entries pertaining to each parent, step-parent, grandparent etc, each of those have to be written to regarding third party consent.
- Members of staff should also be written to, but the setting reserves the right under the legislation to override a refusal for consent, or just delete the name and not the information.
  - If the member of staff has provided information that could be considered 'sensitive', and the staff member may be in danger if that information is disclosed, then the refusal may be granted.
  - If that information is the basis of a police investigation, then refusal should also be granted.
  - If the information is not sensitive, then it is not in the setting's interest to withhold that information from a parent. It is a requirement of the job that if a member of staff has a concern about a child and this is recorded; the parents are told this at the start and in most cases, concerns that have been recorded will have been discussed already, so there should be no surprises.
  - The member of staff's name can be removed from an entry, but the parent may recognise the writing or otherwise identify who had provided that information. In the interest of openness and transparency, the setting manager may consider overriding the refusal for consent.
  - In each case this should be discussed with members of staff and decisions recorded.
- When the consent/refusals have been received, the setting manager takes a photocopy of the whole file. On the copy file the document not to be disclosed is removed (e.g. a case conference report) or notes pertaining to that individual in the contact pages blanked out using a thick marker pen.
- The copy file is then checked by the line manager and legal advisors verify that the file has been prepared appropriately, for instance, in certain circumstances redaction may be appropriate, for instance if a child may be damaged by their data being seen by their parent/carer, e.g. if they have disclosed abuse. This must be clarified with the legal adviser.
- The 'cleaned' copy is then photocopied again and collated for the parent to see.
- The setting manager informs the parent that the file is now ready and invites him/her to make an appointment to view it.
- The setting manager and their line manager meet with the parent to go through the file, explaining the process as well as what the content records about the child and the work that

has been done. Only the persons with parental responsibility can attend that meeting, or the parent's legal representative or interpreter.

- The parent may take a copy of the prepared file away, but it is never handed over without discussion.
- It is an offence to remove material that is controversial or to rewrite records to make them more acceptable. If recording procedures and guidelines have been followed, the material should reflect an accurate and non-judgemental account of the work done with the family.
- If a parent feels aggrieved about any entry in the file, or the resulting outcome, then the parent should be referred the setting complaints procedure for parents and service users.
- The law requires that information held must be accurate, and if a parent says the information held is inaccurate then the parent has a right to request it to be changed. However, this only pertains to factual inaccuracies. Where the disputed entry is a matter of opinion, professional judgement, or represents a different view of the matter than that held by the parent, the setting retains the right not to change the entry but can record the parent's view. In most cases, a parent would have had the opportunity at the time to state their side of the matter, and this should have been recorded there and then.
- If there are any controversial aspects of the content of a client's file, legal advice must be sought. This might be where there is a court case between parents or where social care or the police may be considering legal action, or where a case has already completed and an appeal process is underway.
- A setting should never 'under-record' for fear of the parent seeing, nor should they make 'personal notes' elsewhere.

### **Further guidance**

The Information Commissioner's Office <https://ico.org.uk/> or helpline 0303 123 1113.

## **Chronology Procedure**

As described in our 'Safeguarding Children and child protection' policy Longleaze Pre-School & Nursery considers it the duty of managers, committee members, staff and volunteers to protect the children who they come into contact with from neglect and abuse.

To help us do this we use a Chronology form to record information, concerns and evidence regarding a child's well-being.

### **Each child has a Chronology form**

Information is recorded on a chronology form where

- There are signs of neglect e.g. consistently dirty/inappropriate clothing, consistently hungry
- There are medical concerns
- A child discloses relevant information
- Relevant information is received from parents/carers
- There are inappropriate bruising or marks on child
- There are inappropriate/changes in the child's behaviour and/or language
- Relevant information is received from an outside agency
- Relevant information is received from a third party
- Relevant observations are made from outside the setting
- Other relevant information

A **Correspondence form** will be completed for a child when information relevant to that child is shared with the preschool through a meeting, conversation, telephone call, letter or email.

### **Pre-existing Injuries Form**

Records scrapes, bruises and/or marks children come into the setting with. These are reviewed weekly and information then goes onto a chronology form for monitoring.

### **Child welfare concern record**

To be completed when there is a welfare concern about a child.

At every staff meeting all relevant evidence from;

Chronology forms

- Correspondence forms
- Child pre-existing injuries / marks record;
- Child welfare concern record is shared, discussed and actioned as appropriate.

Remember that the Data Protection Act is not a barrier to sharing information but provides a framework to ensure that personal information about living persons is shared appropriately.

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## Children's records policy

We have record keeping systems in place that meet legal requirements; the means we use to store and share that information takes place within the framework of the General Data Protection Regulations (2018) and the Human Rights Act (1998).

This policy and procedure should be read alongside our Privacy Notice, Confidentiality and Client Access to Records Policy and our Information Sharing Policy.

### **Procedure**

If a child attends another setting, we establish a regular two-way flow of appropriate information with parents and other providers. Where appropriate, we will incorporate comments from other providers, as well as parents and/or carers into the child's records. We keep two kinds of records on children attending the setting:

### **Developmental records**

- These include observations of children in the setting, photographs, video clips and samples of their work and summary developmental reports.
- These are usually kept in each building and can be accessed, and contributed to, by the staff, the child and the child's parents.

### **Personal records**

These may include the following (as applicable):

- Personal details – including the child's registration form and any consent forms.
- Contractual matters – including a copy of the signed parent contract, the child's days and times of attendance, a record of the child's fees, any fee reminders or records of disputes about fees.
- Child's development, health and well-being – including a summary only of the child's EYFS profile report, a record of discussions about every day matters about the child's development health and well-being with the parent.
- Early Support – including any additional focussed intervention provided by our setting (e.g. support for behaviour, language or development that needs an SEN action plan) and records of any meetings held.
- Welfare and child protection concerns – including records of all welfare and protection concerns, and our resulting action, meetings and telephone conversations about the child, an Education, Health and Care Plan and any information regarding a Looked After Child.
- Correspondence and Reports – including a copy of the child's 2 Year Old Progress Check (as applicable), all letters and emails to and from other agencies and any confidential reports from other agencies.
- These confidential records are stored in a lockable file or cabinet, which is always locked when not in use and which our manager keeps secure in the office.
- We read any correspondence in relation to a child, note any actions and file it immediately.

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We ensure that access to children's files is restricted to those authorised to see them and make entries in them, this being our manager, deputies or designated person for child protection, the child's key person, or other staff as authorised by our manager.

- We may be required to hand children's personal files to Ofsted as part of an inspection or investigation process; or to local authority staff conducting a S11 audit, as long as authorisation is seen. We ensure that children's personal files are not handed over to anyone else to look at.
- Parents have access, in accordance with our Privacy Notice, Confidentiality and Client Access to Records Policy, to the files and records of their own children, but do not have access to information about any other child.
- Our staff will not discuss personal information given by parents with other members of staff, except where it affects planning for the child's needs. Our staff induction programme includes an awareness of the importance of confidentiality in the role of the key person.
- We retain children's records for three years after they have left the setting; except records that relate to an accident or child protection matter, which are kept until a child reaches the age of 21 years or 24 years respectively. These are kept in a secure place.

### **Archiving children's files**

- If data is kept electronically it is encrypted and stored on USB stick and placed in the safe.
- When a child leaves our setting, we remove all paper documents from the child's personal file and place them in a robust envelope, with the child's name and date of birth on the front and the date they left.
- Where there are s.47 child protection investigations, we mark the envelope with a star and archive it for 25 years.
- We store financial information according to our finance procedures.

### **Other records**

- We keep a daily record of the names of the children we are caring for, their hours of attendance and the names of their key person.
- Students on Pre-school Learning Alliance or other recognised qualifications and training, when they are observing in the setting, are advised of our Confidentiality and Client Access to Records Policy and are required to respect it.



## **Transfer of records to school policy**

### **Policy statement**

We recognise that children sometimes move to another early years setting before they go on to school, although many will leave our setting to enter a nursery or reception class.

We prepare children for these transitions and involve parents and the receiving setting or school in this process. We prepare records about a child's development and learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage in our setting; in order to enable smooth transitions, we share appropriate information with the receiving setting or school at transfer.

Confidential records are shared where there have been child protection concerns according to the process required by our Local Safeguarding Children Board.

The procedure guides this process and determines what information we can and cannot share with a receiving school or setting. Prior to transferring information, we will establish the lawful basis for doing so (see our Privacy notice).

### **Transfer of development records for a child moving to another early years setting or school**

- It is the designated person's responsibility to ensure that records are transferred and closed in accordance with the archiving procedures, set out below.
- If the Local Safeguarding Partners (LSP) retention requirements are different to the setting, the designated person will liaise with their line manager, and seek legal advice if necessary.

### **Development and learning records**

- The key person prepares a summary of achievements in the prime and specific areas of learning and development
- This record refers to any additional languages spoken by the child and their progress in all languages.
- The record also refers to any additional needs that have been identified or addressed by the setting and any action plans.
- The record also refers to any special needs or disability and whether early help referrals, or child in need referrals or child protection referrals, were raised in respect of special educational needs or disability, whether there is an Action Plan (or other relevant plan, such as CIN or CP, or early help) and gives the name of the lead professional.
- The summary shared with schools should also include whether the child is in receipt of, or eligible for EYPP or other additional funding.
- The record contains a summary by the key person and a summary of the parents' view of the child.

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- The document may be accompanied by other evidence such as photos or drawings that the child has made.
- The setting will use the local authority's assessment summary format or transition record, where these were provided.
- Whichever format of assessment summary is used, it should be completed and shared with the parent prior to transfer.

### **Transfer of confidential safeguarding and child protection information**

- The receiving school/setting will need a record of child protection concerns raised in the setting and what was done about them. The responsibility for transfer of records lies with the originating setting, not on the receiving setting/school to make contact and request them.
- To safeguard children effectively, the receiving setting must be made aware of any current child protection concerns, preferably by telephone, prior to the transfer of written records.
- Parents should be reminded that sensitive information about their child is passed onto receiving settings where there have been safeguarding concerns and should be asked to agree to this prior to the information being shared. Settings are obliged to share data linked to "child abuse" which is defined as physical injury (non-accidental) physical and emotional neglect, ill treatment and abuse.
- Parents/carers should be asked to agree to this, however, where safeguarding concerns have reached the level of a referral being made to local children's social work services (either due to concerns that a child may be at risk of significant harm or that a child may be in need under Section 17 of the Children Act,) if consent is withheld the information will most likely need to be shared anyway. It is important that any decisions made to share or not share with or without consent are fully recorded.
- For any safeguarding or welfare concerns that resulted in an early help referral being made, and if consent to share is withheld, legal advice is sought prior to sharing.
- If the level of a safeguarding concern has not been such that a referral was made for early help, or to children's social work services or police, the likelihood is that any concerns were at a very low level and if they did not meet the threshold for early help, they are unlikely to need to be shared as child abuse data with a receiving setting, however, the designated person should make decisions on a case by case basis, seeking legal advice is necessary.
- The designated person should check the quality of information to be transferred prior to transfer, ensuring that any information to be shared is accurate, relevant, balanced and proportionate. Parents can request that any factual inaccuracies are amended prior to transfer.

Agreed by the committee of Longleaze Pre-school and Nursery at the AGM dated November 2024.

Signed by the Chairperson on behalf of the Committee .....

To be reviewed at the next AGM in November 2025.

- If a parent wants to see the exact content of the safeguarding information to be transferred, they should go through the subject access request process. It is important that a child or other person is not put at risk through information being shared.
- If no referrals have been made for early help or to children's social services and police, there should not normally be any significant information which is unknown to a parent being shared with the receiving school or setting.
- If a parent has objections or reservations about safeguarding information being transferred to the new setting, or if it is unclear what information should be included, the designated person will seek legal advice.
- In the event that LSP requirements are different to the setting's this must be explained to the parent, and a record of the discussion should be signed by parents to indicate that they understand how the information will be shared, in what circumstances, and who by.
- Prior to sharing the information with the receiving setting the designated person should check LSP retention procedures and if it becomes apparent that the LSP procedures are materially different to setting's procedures this is brought to the attention of the designated person's line manager, who will agree how to proceed.
- If a child protection plan or child in need plan is in place a Child welfare and protection summary is also photocopied and a copy is given to the receiving setting or school, along with the date of the last professional meeting or case conference.
- If a S47 investigation has been undertaken by the local authority a copy of the child welfare and protection concern summary form is given to the receiving setting/school.
- Where a ESA/early help assessment has been raised in respect of welfare concerns, the name and contact details of the lead professional are passed on to the receiving setting or school.
- If the setting has a copy of a current plan in place due to early help services being accessed, a copy of this should be given to the receiving setting, with parental consent.
- Where there has been a S47 investigation regarding a child protection concern, the name and contact details of the child's social worker will be passed on to the receiving setting/school, regardless of the outcome of the investigation.
- Where a child has been previously or is currently subject to a child protection plan, or a child in need plan, the name and contact details of the child's social worker will be passed onto the receiving setting/school, along with the dates that the relevant plan was in place for.
- This information is posted (by 'signed for' delivery) or taken to the school/setting, addressed to the setting's or school's designated person for child protection and marked confidential.

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Agreed by the committee of Longleaze Pre-school and Nursery at the AGM dated November 2024.

Signed by the Chairperson on behalf of the Committee .....

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Electronic records must only be transferred by a secure electronic transfer mechanism, or after the information has been encrypted.

- Parent/carers should be made aware what information will be passed onto another setting via a Privacy notice.
- Copies of the last relevant initial child protection conference/review, as well as the last core group or child in need minutes can be given to the setting/school.
- The setting manager must review and update 06.1a Child welfare and protection summary file, checking for accuracy, proportionality, and relevance, before this is sent to the setting/school. This is sealed and placed in an archive box and stored in a safe place i.e. a locked cabinet for three years or until the next Ofsted inspection conducted after the child has left the setting, and can then be destroyed.
- Health and safety records and some accident records pertaining to a child are stored in line with required retention periods.

## **The settings records policy**

### **Policy statement**

We keep records and documentation for the purpose of maintaining our charity. These include:

- Records pertaining to our registration.
- Landlord/lease documents and other contractual documentation pertaining to amenities, services and goods.
- Financial records pertaining to income and expenditure.
- Risk assessments.
- Employment records of our staff including their name, home address and telephone number.
- Names, addresses and telephone numbers of anyone else who is regularly in unsupervised contact with the children.

We consider our records as confidential based on the sensitivity of information, such as with employment records. These confidential records are maintained with regard to the framework of the General Data Protection Regulations (2018), further details are given in our Privacy Notice and the Human Rights Act (1998).

This policy and procedure should be read alongside our Privacy Notice, Confidentiality and Client Access to Records Policy and Information Sharing Policy.

### **Procedures**

- All records are the responsibility of our management team who ensure they are kept securely.
- All our records are kept in an orderly way in files and filing is kept up-to-date.
- Our financial records are kept up-to-date for audit purposes.
- We maintain health and safety records; these include risk assessments, details of checks or inspections and guidance etc.
- Our Ofsted registration certificate is displayed.
- Our Public Liability insurance certificate is displayed.
- All our employment and staff records are kept securely and confidentially.

We notify Ofsted of any:

- change in the address of our premises;
- change to our premises which may affect the space available to us or the quality of childcare we provide;
- change to the name and address of our registered provider, or the provider's contact information;
- change to the person managing our provision;

- significant event which is likely to affect our suitability to look after children; or
- other event as detailed in the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage* (DfE 2017).

**Legal Framework**

- General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) (2018)
- Human Rights Act (1998)

## Working in partnership with other agencies

### Policy statement

We work in partnership with local and national agencies to promote the well-being of all children. We will never share your data with any organisation to use for their own purposes.

### Procedures

- We work in partnership, or in tandem, with local and national agencies to promote the wellbeing of children.
- We have procedures in place for the sharing of information about children and families with other agencies. These are set out in our Privacy Notice, Information Sharing Policy, Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy and the Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs Policy.
- Information shared by other agencies with us is regarded as third party information. This is also kept in confidence and not shared without consent from that agency.
- When working in partnership with staff from other agencies, we make those individuals welcome in our setting and respect their professional roles.
- We follow the protocols for working with agencies, for example on child protection.
- We ensure that staff from other agencies do not have unsupervised access to the child they are visiting in the setting and do not have access to any other child(ren) during their visit.
- Our staff do not casually share information or seek informal advice about any named child/family.

When necessary, we consult with and signpost to local and national agencies who offer a wealth of advice and information that help us to develop our understanding of the issues facing us and who can provide support and information for parents. For example, ethnic/cultural organisations, drug/alcohol agencies, welfare rights advisors or organisations promoting childcare and education, or adult education.