



**INFORMATION SHARING UPDATED GUIDANCE NOTE TO LSCB PARTNER  
AGENCIES APRIL 2013**

Dear LSCB COLLEAGUES,

**Urgent review of information sharing protocol.**

Following the brief discussion last week at the LSCB EXECUTIVE, we have now had an opportunity to reflect further on the High Court Judgement AB&CD v LBH and I enclose a copy.

Later next week we will be in a position to update agencies, if needed, following further legal advice being sought concerning the impact of the judgement on our LSCB and other operational information sharing arrangements.

The brief **interim guidance document** attached sets out the current position that will be adopted when communicating with agencies either seeking information or wanting to share information that they are in possession of for the purpose of assessing need or risk in relation to children.

This review has required some adjustment to operating protocols in the MASH and screening team particularly and we are currently engaged in providing training for staff undertaking this work and there may be some short delays in processing any new 'live' contact and referrals whilst we take staff through the principals we will need them to rigorously apply to all incoming work.

For some of your staff this may mean additional work and indeed it may no longer be possible to progress requests or referrals until the requirements of the information sharing protocol has been fully met.

For most contacts being referred into children's social care we will expect the referring agency to have informed the family about the intent to refer and sought their consent to share information with us to do so. For the majority of LSCB agencies this will be a re-statement of good interagency practice, for some the challenge will be greater and it will be important that staff are supported to work through the issues that are raised. In some cases the level of risk and urgency will allow a discussion about the proportionality of departing from the usual route of seeking consent to share information. Options for progressing these inquiries are set out in the guidance in more detail.

I also enclose a revised version of the referral form that includes an updated section on consent.

A fuller discussion about the impact of the AB&CD V LBH judgement will be the main agenda item at the next Haringey MASH Board to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> April at 11.30am.

Please contact myself or Chrissy Austin; (acting) Head of Service First Response in the meantime if there are any concerns about the implications for your agency from the judgement or the interim guidance.

Marion Wheeler  
Assistant Director  
Children and Young Peoples Service