

SHARING INFORMATION WITH CONFIDENCE AND CARE

All-staff briefing for SoTSCP and partner organisations

Every conversation, record and decision can help us see the whole child and offer the right help sooner.

NOTICE

SHARE

FOLLOW THROUGH

Our shared mindset Move from “Am I allowed to share?” to “Could sharing help this child?”

What we need everyone to know

Information sharing is part of how we work together. The aim is a fuller picture, earlier help and safer decisions.

01 Understand

What the new duty means — and the safeguards that still guide us.

02 Notice

When information from your role could help another service support a child.

03 Share

How to share the right information, with the right person, in the right way.

04 Follow through

How to record the decision, ask for support and check what happened next.

Our shared aim: timely, lawful and thoughtful information sharing that helps children and families receive the right support sooner.

Who holds the duty — and what it means for us

From 30 September 2026, section 16LA applies to specified organisations, agencies and commissioned providers; staff put it into practice through their roles.

WHAT WE DO

- Actively consider whether relevant information should be shared.
- Share proactively, as well as responding to relevant requests.
- Think about welfare and earlier help, not only significant harm.
- Use the partnership arrangements that support consistent practice.

WHAT STAYS TRUE

- Keep the child at the centre.
- Use your professional judgement.
- Continue to respect data protection, confidentiality and human rights.
- Share only what is relevant, accurate, necessary and proportionate.

WHEN TO PAUSE

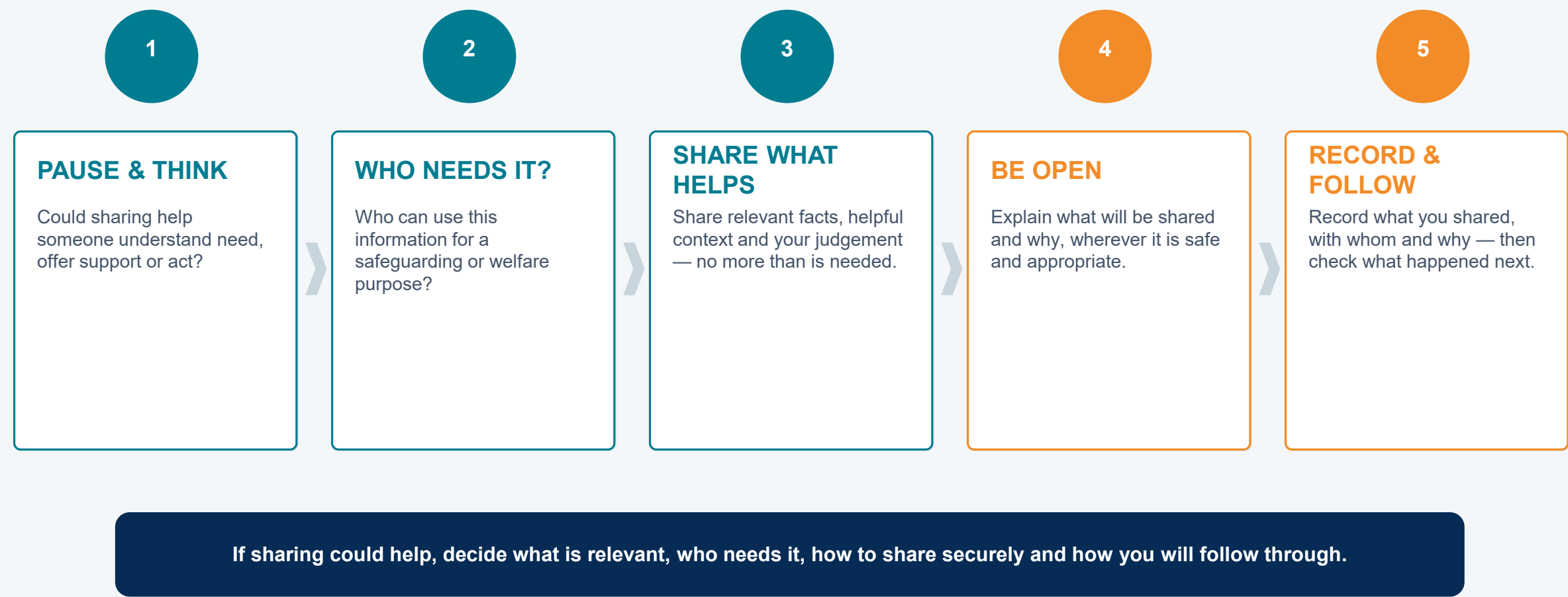
Do not share if doing so is likely to cause more harm to the child than not sharing.

Talk it through and record the potential benefit, potential harm and why the decision was reasonable.

This is not a “share everything” duty — it is a duty to think, decide and act with care.

Five questions to guide a safe decision

Use these questions when you are considering sharing proactively or responding to a request.



Questions we can work through together

Safe sharing is not about having every answer on your own. Pause, check and seek advice when you need it.

CONSENT

Consent is not always required. Being open with a child or family is not the same as asking permission.

DATA PROTECTION

UK GDPR guides how we share safely. It does not prevent justified safeguarding information sharing.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The duty gives a clearer basis for sharing, while confidentiality and Article 8 still need careful consideration.

WORKING ACROSS SERVICES

Share across service and organisational boundaries when the duty applies and the information is relevant.

ASK FOR HELP

Pause and speak with your manager or information-governance lead — safe decisions are shared decisions.

How the partnership supports you

The national framework becomes useful when it is backed by clear local agreements, secure systems and people you can turn to.



We each help information flow safely

Confident practice grows when colleagues, organisations and partnership leaders all play their part.

EVERY COLLEAGUE

- Notice when information could help.
- Stay curious about the wider picture.
- Share proportionately and securely.
- Be open with children and families where safe.
- Record the decision and follow through.

OUR ORGANISATIONS

- Keep policy, privacy information and protocols clear.
- Provide training and reflective supervision.
- Maintain secure systems and named contacts.
- Make advice and escalation easy to access.
- Learn from decisions and information quality.

PARTNERSHIP LEADERS

- Keep agreements aligned and usable.
- Remove barriers between services.
- Listen to workforce experience.
- Bring learning from audits and reviews together.
- Test whether children receive help sooner.

Six questions for a reflective conversation

Use these in supervision, team huddles or after a difficult information-sharing decision.



What are we noticing?



What helps us know?



What have we tried?



What difference did it make?



Where do we need help?



What will we learn?

Notice → explore → act together → check the difference → learn and adapt

WHAT WE NOTICED

Requests, timeliness, quality, barriers and the child or family’s experience.

THE NEXT STEP

A named person, practical support, a timescale and a point to check back.

THE DIFFERENCE

A clearer picture, earlier help, safer decisions and fewer avoidable delays.

How we will learn and improve together

We will look beyond activity and ask whether sharing was useful, understood and acted upon.

Quality of decisions

Relevant, proportionate, accurate, transparent and clearly recorded

Information flow

Requests acknowledged, information transferred securely and follow-up completed

Support for staff

Training, supervision, advice and escalation are easy to use

Barriers and solutions

Delays, system issues and cross-service problems are surfaced and resolved

Equity and experience

Arrangements work fairly across services, families and communities

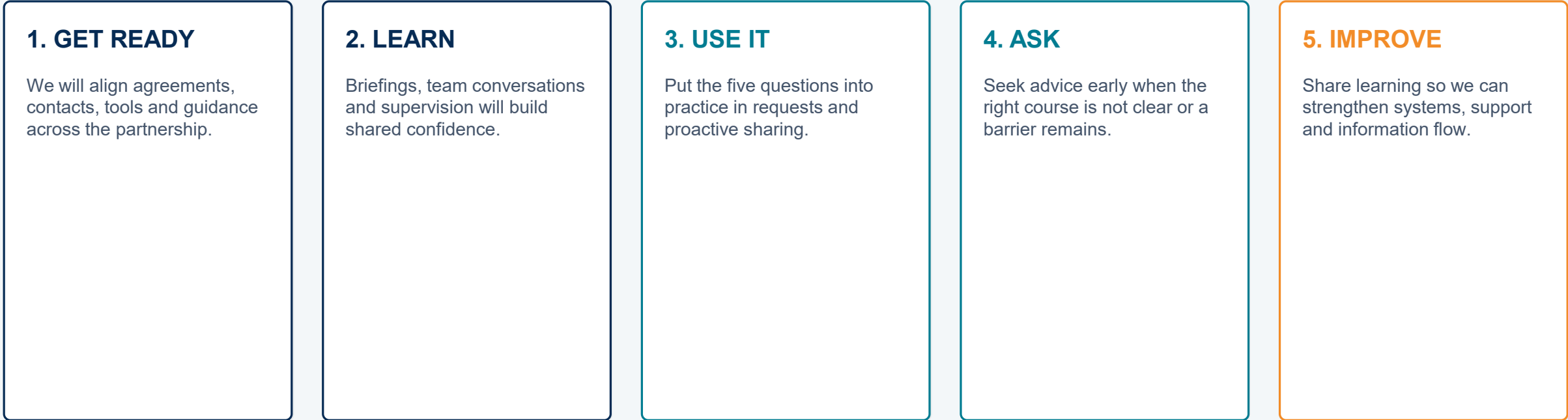
Difference for children

The wider picture is clearer and children receive the right help sooner

Our learning principle: notice what helps, listen when something gets in the way, and improve the system together.

What happens next — and what we need from you

We will connect the national duty, our local agreements and everyday practice in a way that feels clear and workable.



YOUR PART

- Be curious about whether your information could help.
- Use the five questions and record your decision.
- Ask for support rather than carrying uncertainty alone.
- Tell us what helps — and what gets in the way.

RIGHT Help. RIGHT People. RIGHT Time.

Share with care. Stay curious. Ask for help.
Follow through so we know what difference it made.

Questions and reflections