

**Information for GP Practices**

**Medical Record Sharing between GPs and Health Visitors.**

**Why should the Health Visitor and GP be able to see each other’s record?**

* GPs and Health Visitors used to be able to see each other’s records when they worked together in the same GP practice. As you know, GPs and Health Visitors no longer share the same offices and therefore this can make the sharing of information more difficult.
* We think it is important for the Health Visitor, who monitors a child’s growth and development before they start school and provides support to parents, to be able to see the information that the GP has.
* It also might be useful for the GP to see the information that the Health Visitor has before starting treatment.
* There have been previous reports of serious cases where children have been harmed. It was thought that things could have been different if the GP and Health Visitor had shared information about the child.
* The specific recommendation, following which this action has been taken, comes from the Sheffield Serious Case review into the care of Child H, a 3 year old who was killed by her mother’s partner. Many Serious Case reviews have highlighted the importance of the need for information sharing between health practitioners.

**From 1st July the GP, Health Visitor and School Nurse will have shared access to the GP records on System One until the child is 6 years old. This access has been approved by the CCG Information Governance Group and the Caldicott Guardian**

**We have provided you with an information leaflet regarding this record sharing that you can provide to parents. If they do not wish for their child’s records to be shared they can tell you and opt out of the automatic system.**

**There may be circumstances where if you are concerned that a child may be being harmed or is at risk of harm that you will need to share information without parental consent. The GMC guidance on Information Sharing is clear that you have a duty to do so.**

**The automatic sharing of the GP record with the Health Visitor should, in no circumstances, prevent you from also making direct contact with the health visitor if you have safeguarding concerns about a child.**