



East London

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance

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8th May 2026

Our reference: FOI DA6521

We are responding to your request for information received 5th March 2026. We are sorry for the delay in responding to your request. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We are now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact us on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Team

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision.

If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Web: www.ico.org.uk

Please note that the data supplied is not allowed to be re-used and/or published without the explicit consent of East London NHS Foundation Trust. Please contact the signatory to request permission if this is your intention



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Request:

This request relates to safeguarding procedures and inter-agency communication regarding the handling of child safeguarding concerns within your organisation.

Question 1: Copies of safeguarding policies and procedures currently in place for handling concerns relating to a child's mental health and suicide risk

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust does not have specific child safeguarding policies and procedures in place for mental health and suicide risk, as our children's safeguarding policy focuses mainly on broader safeguarding needs.

Please see the following link for the Safeguarding Children policy:

https://www.elft.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2025-09/safeguarding_children_policy_9.1.docx

Question 2: Policies relating to information sharing between agencies where a child may be at risk of harm

Answer: East London NHS Foundation Trust has a Safeguarding Children policy that provides guidance on information sharing with partners when a child maybe at risk of harm. Additionally, information sharing is also covered within our Data Protection and Confidentiality Policy.

Please see the following links:

https://www.elft.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2025-03/data_protection_and_confidentiality_policy_1.3.docx

https://www.elft.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2025-09/safeguarding_children_policy_9.1.docx

Question 3: Procedures for verifying parental responsibility before excluding a parent from safeguarding information

Answer: The current Safeguarding Children policy does not cover this information. However, the Safeguarding Children policy is being reviewed as the team has identified this as a gap.

Question 4: Guidance used by staff regarding communication with both parents where safeguarding concerns exist

Answer: The Safeguarding Children policy does not provide explicit guidance on communicating with both parents when safeguarding concerns are present. The information-sharing sections discuss sharing information with "parents/carers" as a general group, and note that staff should be open and honest with children and their parents about what information will be shared, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so. There is guidance on when not to inform parents for example, in cases of suspected fabricated or induced



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illness, or where telling a parent could increase risk to a child. But there is no specific protocol addressing how to handle communication when two separated parents are involved, when one parent may be the source of risk, or how to ensure the non-abusing parent is appropriately informed while managing risk from the other. The Safeguarding Children policy is being reviewed as the team has identified this as a gap.

Question 5: Any internal guidance used when responding to safeguarding concerns raised by schools, CAMHS or social services

Answer: The Safeguarding Children policy does not contain specific internal guidance on how staff should respond when safeguarding concerns are raised by external agencies such as schools, CAMHS, or social services. It covers the reverse direction in detail how ELFT staff should make referrals to Children's Social Care and collaborate in multi-agency processes. It mentions that staff must contribute to multi-agency assessments and child protection investigations, and there is a section on managing multi-agency disagreements and escalation. However, there is no defined internal process or flowchart for triaging, recording, and responding to incoming safeguarding concerns or referrals received from partner agencies. The Safeguarding Children policy is being reviewed as the team has identified this as a gap.



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