



To: Civic Affairs
Report by: Anne Mealia, Information Manager
Civic Affairs 27 June 2012
Wards affected: All

Information Sharing Framework

1. Executive summary

The countywide Leaders/Chairman Group commissioned the Cambridgeshire Public Service Board (CPSB) to develop more efficient and effective ways of sharing information across public sector organisations within Cambridgeshire. This has led to the creation of the Cambridgeshire Information Sharing Framework.

The objective of the framework is to share information where appropriate to improve service delivery or resident outcomes, except where it would be illegal to do so.

The benefits of the Framework are:

- improved transparency around data sharing
- faster and more consistent sharing and improved customer outcomes
- increased understanding of data sharing principles
- to protect partner organisations from allegations of wrongful use of data by documenting any sharing

Supporting guidance, training materials and a public Charter have also been developed as a part of the project and the framework is based on national best practice.

2. Recommendations

The committee is recommended:

- to approve the Information Sharing Framework

3. Background

The countywide Leaders/Chairman Group commissioned the Cambridgeshire Public Service Board (CPSB) to develop more efficient and effective ways of sharing information across public sector organisations within Cambridgeshire to improve customer outcomes and service efficiencies.

This has led to the creation of the Cambridgeshire Information Sharing Framework which sets out a positive approach to sharing information between partners across the county.

The Framework was developed by Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Police, NHS Cambridgeshire and Fire Service.

The Framework aims to ensure information sharing is consistent, fair and secure and a template has been developed to document each sharing agreement. In addition, guidance, training materials and a public Charter have been developed as part of the project.

The benefits of the Framework are:

- improved transparency around data sharing
- faster and more consistent sharing and improved customer outcomes
- increased understanding of data sharing principles
- to protect partner organisations from allegations of wrongful use of data by documenting sharing arrangements

The Framework is based on national best practice. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) commented very positively on the Framework stating it is in line with their own best practice guidance. It also references a best practice Framework developed by Leicestershire County Council with its partner agencies which are cited by the Local Government Improvement and Development (LGID) and Local Government Association (LGA) as a template for others to use.

During its development, the Information Sharing Framework was subject to a period of consultation within each organisation to ensure it was usable and fit for purpose by practitioners who are sharing information on a regular basis. This engagement has raised the profile of the Framework and contributed to the drafting of the document.

An implementation plan is being developed to ensure the principles of the Framework can be embedded across each organisation within Cambridgeshire

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

None

(b) Staffing Implications (if not covered in Consultations Section)

None

(c) Equal Opportunities Implications

None

(d) Environmental Implications

Nil

(e) **Consultation**

Heads of Service were consulted on the framework. Community Development/Community Safety and Safer Communities were consulted in more detail as the services most affected by the Framework.

(f) **Community Safety**

5. Background papers

Information Sharing Framework

6. Appendices

Information Sharing Framework

7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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