

Student Suicide Prevention – Information sharing statement

Leeds Beckett University's practice, in relation to data sharing, is in line with the [Information Sharing and Suicide Prevention Consensus Statement](#) and recognised best practice.

Colleagues are bound by law and professional guidelines to protect confidential information about individuals unless there is a significant risk to the individual, the public or children. In such cases, the Information Sharing and Suicide Prevention Consensus Statement states that practitioners should disclose relevant confidential information to an appropriate person – including family or friends – **or authority to protect a vulnerable person from risk of death or serious harm.**

We work jointly with individuals who are at risk of suicide, to identify those people or services that are best placed to support and keep them safe and when beneficial we support individuals to make contact themselves or seek consent to make contact on their behalf.

Colleagues generally have a duty to respect a person's refusal to consent to information sharing when that person has mental capacity and they do not pose a risk to anyone but themselves. However, data protection law does allow for the sharing of personal data **in an emergency, in order to protect a person from serious harm or to prevent loss of human life.** We will review each individual situation and, where we believe that information sharing will protect a person from risk of death or serious harm, we will contact people or services without a person's consent.

This relies on effective clinical judgement, working with each individual person, to identify the appropriate service/person, who are best situated, to protect them from risk of death or serious harm.

We recognise that it is good practice to routinely and frequently confirm with all students seeking mental health support whether and how they wish their family, friends or carers to be involved in supporting them.

The decision to share information, without consent, will only be made by a qualified and registered mental health professional and this decision would be made in consultation with a second mental health professional.