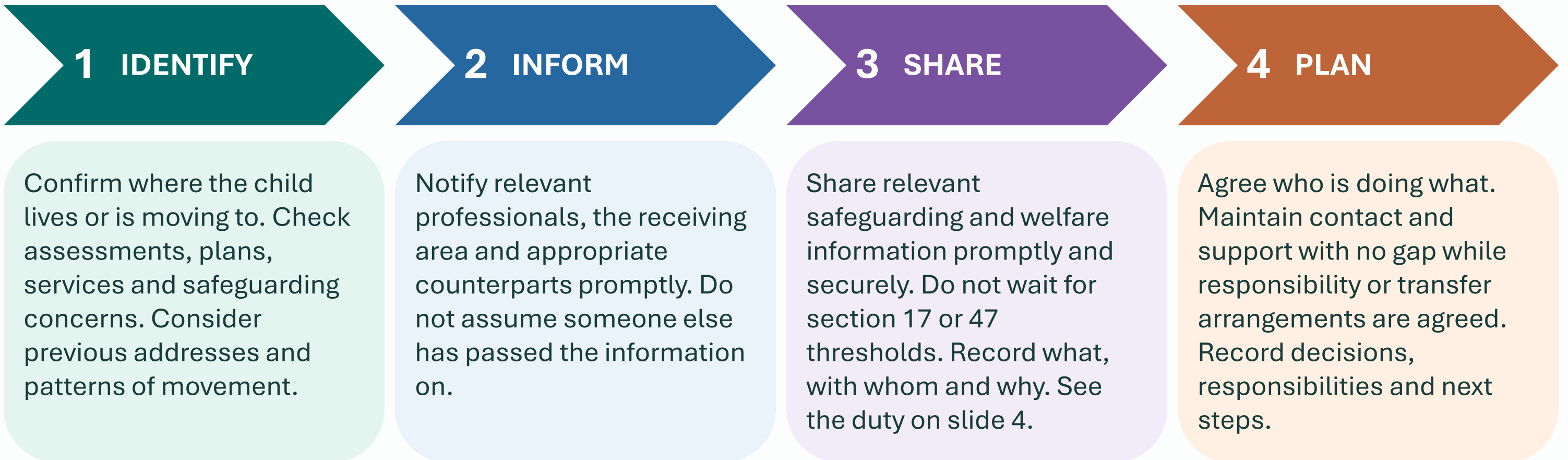


Children moving across local authority borders

A child or family has moved, or plans to move, temporarily or permanently.
This includes safeguarding concerns about an unborn baby.



Temporary stay? Confirm duration, who the child lives with, and effects on services or plans, including stays with relatives.

The child's status determines the arrangements

Check the full Regional Protocol for the child's circumstances and legal status.

CHILD'S STATUS

Ongoing section 47 enquiry

Child Protection Plan or statutory order

Cared for child or care leaver

Private fostering arrangement

Early Help or Child in Need services

Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

MOVE ARRANGEMENTS

Shared care or co-parenting
across areas

Temporary accommodation
or repeated moves

A child or family moving abroad

Do not assume responsibility has transferred because the child has moved.

Mobility, cumulative risk and the child’s experience

Repeated moves should not be treated as isolated events. Consider the cumulative picture.

IS MOBILITY INCREASING RISK?

- Repeated or short-notice moves
- Temporary or unstable accommodation
- Missed appointments or lost contact
- Changes of school, GP or other services
- Disrupted assessments or support
- Domestic abuse, exploitation or homelessness
- Gaps or inconsistencies in information
- Moves disrupting or avoiding professional involvement

KEEP THE CHILD VISIBLE

VOICE

How does the child experience the move?
Have we recorded their views?

EDUCATION

Is the child attending and receiving appropriate education?

INFORMATION

Do receiving-area professionals have the information they need?

HEALTH

Are health needs met?
Can the child access appropriate services?

SAFETY

Have we considered existing and emerging safeguarding concerns?

CONTINUITY

Who maintains contact, visits and support while arrangements are agreed?



Information sharing and immediate safeguarding

NEW DUTY / ENGLAND / FROM 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

Relevant organisations must share when the statutory conditions apply

Section 16LA of the Children Act 2004 sets out the new statutory information-sharing duty. Share relevant information with another covered organisation if it may help safeguard or promote a child's welfare. This includes information about connected people, proactive sharing and responses to requests.

LIMITED EXCEPTION

Where you consider sharing would be more detrimental to the child than not sharing. Record the decision and rationale. The duty does not require a section 17 or 47 threshold.

Share promptly and securely. Share only what is necessary and proportionate. Record decisions, follow up missing information and escalate barriers promptly.

Consent is not required for necessary safeguarding or welfare sharing. Be open with the child and family about what, with whom and why, when safe and appropriate.

IMMEDIATE RISK

Safeguarding comes first

Follow local safeguarding procedures and take the action needed to protect the child.

Disagreement about responsibility must never delay safeguarding action.

Professional disagreement



Continue necessary safeguarding activity while resolving the disagreement. Record the disagreement, actions, decisions and any interim arrangements.

Five reminders

1 ACT EARLY	Plan ahead where possible. If moved, act and share promptly.
2 SHARE	Make sure relevant information follows the child.
3 CONNECT	Link professionals across local authority boundaries.
4 ESCALATE	Challenge delays, gaps and unresolved responsibility.
5 KEEP THE CHILD AT THE CENTRE	A change of address must never make a child invisible to services.

The child moves. Safeguarding responsibility does not disappear.

[Full Regional Protocol \(PDF\)](#)

[Statutory information-sharing duty guidance \(PDF\)](#)