I’d like to make comment on the illustrative code of practice. These comments are in a personal capacity.

1. The guidance is incredibly difficult to follow. A decision flowchart diagram listing all of the appropriate steps and reflective questions would aid understanding considerably.

2. Some of the language is ambiguous. For example in paragraph 6 talks about the person to whom the information relates. If we are dealing with a vulnerable child and struggling parent/carer, information potentially shared between adult and children services will relate to two people. Should both be asked for consent to share? What if only one provides it?

3. In para 6(iii) or 35 I think it would be appropriate to provide multiple examples of ‘compelling reasons’ which at the very least, cover the main reasons that children find themselves on the child protection register. There should also be examples from the other end of the scale of seriousness for example, pertaining to promoting child wellbeing.

4. I’d particularly welcome examples that touch on areas well recognised to raise different views about seriousness, for example, relating to parental drug or alcohol use or parental supply of alcohol to a child for consumption in a private place that could conceivably undermine a child’s wellbeing.