



# Children subject to a Child Protection Plan going abroad

## Children's Social Care 2024

June 2024

# About this document

<b>Title</b>	<b>Children with a CP Plan travelling abroad</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	To ensure the safety and oversight of children subject to a CP Plan
<b>Updated by</b>	Michelle Knott
<b>Approved by</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>June 2024</b>
<b>Version number</b>	Final v1
<b>Status</b>	Approved
<b>Implementation date:</b>	18 June 2024
<b>Review frequency</b>	Annual
<b>Next review date</b>	June 2025
<b>Audit Scheduled</b>	

## Version Control

**Document Location:** Lambeth Borough Council Tri-X procedures

This document is only valid on the day it is printed

<b>Date Issued:</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Summary of Changes</b>	<b>Created by</b>
		First Draft	M Knott
18/06/24		Final	

### Intended Audience

This document has been issued to the following people for Review (R) Information (I) and Review and Sign off (S). The Scheme of Delegation is mandatory and must be shared with all managers, and social work staff and with those holding cases in Early Help to ensure decisions are being made at the appropriate level within the organisation.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>S/R/I</b>
TMs, SMs, ADs, CP Chairs, QA SLT, SLT, PSW, PDLs, Director.	TMs, SMs, ADs, CP Chairs, QA SLT, SLT, PSW, PDLs, Director	I
All staff	All staff	I
Deborah Carter	Senior Safeguarding Schools Manager	I

## **1. Overview**

Children travel abroad for different reasons such as:

- To go on holiday;
- To have a short stay with extended family;
- To move abroad permanently.

This guide applies to all three of these travel plans.

The social worker and the core group will discuss the likely impact of any planned change in a child's circumstances. They will have to consider whether the child is at increased risk of harm if the planned trip takes place. They inform parents of the outcome of their discussions and what arrangements will need to be in place so that they can make sure the child is safe if the trip does go ahead.

The social worker must consult with the following:

- Each parent, so that they can explain how they intend to keep the child safe during your time abroad;
- The child, to seek their views about the plans to travel;
- The core group of professionals working closely with the family to make sure the child is safe;
- The conference chair to seek their views about the travel plans;
- The Assistant Director, to seek their agreement to the trip, and whether a Need to Know is required.

After the social worker has consulted with all the people above, Children's Services will inform the parents whether they think the planned trip abroad is in the child's best interests or if they have concerns about their safety.

## **2. Action**

### **2.1 Children Taken Abroad when Section 47 Enquiries are Being Undertaken**

If the child is taken abroad when Section 47 enquiries have commenced, but are not yet completed, the investigating social worker should inform the relevant authorities in the country of destination, seeking advice from Children and Family Services Across Borders (CFAB) - (formerly International Social Services) - as necessary.

If the Section 47 enquiry is accompanied by a criminal investigation, police should inform the relevant Police force abroad.

Strategy discussions should be held, and legal advice sought to determine known or likely risk of harm and what action should take place to safeguard the children from harm. A 'Need to Know' should be completed and shared with the Assistant Director and the Director.

## 2.2 Children Going Abroad on Holiday

The Social Worker will:

- Ascertain the address where the child will be staying;
- Ascertain the exact dates of travel;
- Ask for evidence of travel and accommodation arrangements;
- Notify the relevant Head of Service and the Chair of the Child Protection Conference;
- Agree with the parents how they can be contacted e.g. mobile phone number, contact numbers of travel agent;
- Contact the family every 10 working days during their trip;
- Arrange to see the family and child within 2 days of them returning home;
- Discuss, if appropriate and not likely to increase the risk to the child, any concerns they may have in relation to the child going abroad on holiday (e.g. fears that the family may flee, FGM, Forced Marriage, Trafficking, Child Sexual Exploitation, Radicalisation, "so called" Honour-Based Violence);
- Consider applying for a Prohibited Steps Order with legal services if they have any of the above concerns or any other concerns in relation to the child being at increased risk if they are taken outside of the UK.

## 2.3 Children Going Abroad for a Temporary Stay with Friends/Family

- Social worker must undertake all the points listed in the actions to take when children go abroad on holiday ([Section 2.2, Children Going Abroad on Holiday](#));
- All professionals in the core group must inform their respective counterpart agencies abroad;
- The social worker must inform the national embassies and consulates in London for the country concerned. Details are available from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website via the following hyperlink: [Find a British Embassy, High Commission or Consulate - Foreign and Commonwealth Office Website](#);
- The social worker must consider requesting an assessment of family or friends from CFAB on 0207 773 8941. See also the '[International Child Protection, Risk of Families Fleeing Social Services](#)' factsheet.

The social worker and the core group remain responsible for implementing the child protection plan until the above actions have been completed. They will resume responsibility for implementing the child protection plan when notified of the children's return.

## **2.4 Children Moving Abroad Permanently**

The social worker and the core group must undertake all steps outlined in [Section 2.2, Children Going Abroad on Holiday](#) and [Section 2.3, Children Going Abroad for a Temporary Stay with Friends/Family](#).

Having received any assessment information from CFAB and other relevant agencies, the core group should form a view regarding the continuing risk of significant harm for the child and convene a review child protection conference. All those notified in [Section 1, Overview](#) should be notified by the relevant core group member of the outcome of the Child Protection Conference and of any recommendations for further action.

A 'Need to Know' should be completed and shared with Assistant Director and Director.

## **2.5 Review Child Protection Conferences and Child/ren Going Abroad**

If the move is temporary a Review Child Protection Conference should be held at the scheduled time. Consideration should be given for bringing forward the date of this conference.

If the child does not return before the time of the Review Child Protection Conference is due, it must go ahead with information gathered from agencies abroad, as detailed in [Section 2.4, Children Moving Abroad Permanently](#) when children move abroad permanently. A decision whether the child should remain subject to a Child Protection Plan will be made and if so, a revised Child Protection Plan must be formulated.

On the rare occasion where the child has moved abroad permanently and all relevant agencies abroad have been notified that it is the view of the core group that no further work can be undertaken, the chair of the child protection conference will write a brief report to the Assistant Director/Service Manager for Quality Assurance in Children's Social Care requesting that the child is no longer the subject of a Child Protection Plan.