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# Falkland Islands Government

Health and Social Services Directorate



## Policy Statement and Procedure for Assessment of Children on a Child Protection Plan travelling within the Falkland Islands and Overseas

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## **Policy Statement and Procedure for Assessment of Children on a Child Protection Plan travelling within the Falkland Islands and Overseas**

### **Policy Statement**

Children who are subject to a child protection plan have been assessed as having experienced or being at risk of experiencing significant harm and therefore require a statutory level of protection to keep them safe. This policy aims to ensure that due consideration is given to the arrangements prior to any child on a child protection plan going on holiday within the Falkland Islands or overseas, and if they have to travel overseas for medical treatment (referred to as Medical Treatment Overseas – MTO).

Prior to a child who is subject to a child protection plan going on holiday or receiving planned medical treatment overseas, an assessment will be undertaken.

In the case of a medical emergency that necessitates the child being medically evacuated; the child's immediate health will be prioritised and it is unlikely that an assessment will be completed prior to the child's evacuation. In such circumstances, the Social Services Department must be informed as soon as possible so that risk assessments can be undertaken, plans put in place and they should inform the Child Protection Chair.

In the case of planned MTOs, the doctor initiating the MTO request should ensure a referral is made to Social Services and in an emergency the on-call doctor will be responsible for ensuring a referral is made to [Referrals.social@kemh.gov.fk](mailto:Referrals.social@kemh.gov.fk) or out of hours contact should be made with the on-call social worker via the police on 28100.

The MTO Medical Coordinator will be the UK point of contact for organising accommodation etc.

### **Assessment**

The assessment will include:

#### **1. Discussions with:**

- i. Each parent, so that they can express their view and explain how they intend to keep the child safe while on holiday / receiving medical treatment overseas;
- ii. The child, to seek their views about the plans to travel where appropriate
- iii. The core group to ascertain their views about the travel plans;
- iv. The Child Protection Chair to seek their views about the travel plans.

#### **2. The Social Worker will:**

- i. Ascertain the address where the child will be staying; if this address is in the Falkland Islands, then checks should be completed on the address by the police and the social services department;
- ii. Ascertain who the child will be staying with if it will not just be the parents; if this address is in the Falkland Islands, then checks should be completed on the address/adults with the police and the social services department; Where children are being taken abroad, the social worker should, at the earliest opportunity, gather information about the people they will be staying with. Consideration will be given to requesting the support of [\*\*CFAB \(Children and Families Across Borders\)\*\*](#) who have indicated that they will consider extending support to the Falkland Islands on a case-by-case basis (please see below);
- iii. Ascertain the exact dates and times of travel and flight numbers;
- iv. Ask for evidence of travel and accommodation arrangements;
- v. Agree with the parents how they can be contacted e.g. mobile phone number, contact numbers of travel agent;
- vi. Obtain passport numbers for the children and family members travelling.

### 3. Actions:

- i. Where the social worker suspects that children have been removed from the home address without an agreed plan, the police will be contacted and where appropriate a missing person's report generated for each child;
- ii. The Social Worker will share the assessment with the Child Protection Chair and with the relevant authority where the child is believed to have been taken to;
- iii. Where the assessment evidences significant concerns about the safety of a child who is due to go on holiday, social worker to request urgent legal planning meeting;
- iv. Where the assessment does not evidence increased risk, the social worker will develop a plan to monitor the child's safety; this will include telephone/video contact with the child/family at least every 10 working days during their trip if the family are travelling abroad; where the family are travelling in the Falkland Islands, consideration should be given and recorded for the social worker to visit the child in person whilst they are on holiday; where a decision is taken that a visit is not required contact must be completed as if the child was abroad;
- v. Visits should be made to the child/family within 48 hours of the date of travel to verify that the plans are understood and that there have been no changes in the travel plans. A visit should also be made within 48 hours of the family returning home;
- vi. If a family leave the Falkland Islands without prior discussion with the social worker, then it is important that the social worker seeks legal advice and convenes an urgent strategy meeting; one outcome of which will be to request urgent assistance from CFAB;
- vii. The Team Manager will alert the Head of Social Services to any child who is removed from the Falkland Islands without a plan or who does not return at the agreed time. A legal planning meeting will be convened;

- viii. The Social Work Team Manager to alert the Head of Services of all children subject to CP plans who are taken abroad and the risk analysis. The Head of Social Services will review the plans with the Social Worker/Team Manager on at least a fortnightly basis until the children return to the Falkland Islands;
- ix. The Team Manager/Social Worker will inform the Head of Social Services of a child's return from holiday.

**Useful Resource:**

Children and Families Across Borders (CFAB) CFAB is the UK branch of the International Social Service (ISS) network. It aims to promote and protect the rights of children left vulnerable or at risk through separation by international borders. CFAB provides inter-country casework services, training and advice to local authorities, CAFCASS, solicitors, judges, individuals and families. CFAB also offers a free advice and information helpline for individuals or practitioners facing an inter-country situation, and has created a number of useful [fact sheets](#).

Contact details:

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