

# INTERNATIONAL KINSHIP CARE GUIDE

A GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE FOR PROFESSIONALS  
PLACING CHILDREN FROM LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE  
WITH FAMILY MEMBERS ABROAD



*NOVEMBER 2020*

## Members of the Cross Border Child Safeguarding Working Group

The Cross Border Child Safeguarding (CBCS) working group was originally established in 2018 to provide feedback on and facilitate recommendations from the research report: “Cross-border child safeguarding: Challenges, effective social work practice and outcomes for children.”<sup>1</sup> One such recommendation was the creation of more comprehensive guidance for international kinship placements and the CBCS working group has been crucial in ensuring that this document is as comprehensive as possible. Members have included:

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<sup>1</sup>Children and Families Across Borders (2018) *Cross-border child safeguarding: Challenges, effective social work practice and outcomes for children* [online] [http://cfab-cms.bitmachine.co.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/Main%20report%20WEB%20VERSION%20V2\\_1.pdf](http://cfab-cms.bitmachine.co.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/Main%20report%20WEB%20VERSION%20V2_1.pdf)

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## Acknowledgements

**by Carolyn Housman, Chair of the Cross Border Child Safeguarding Working Group and CEO of Children and Families Across Borders**

Both the Children Act 1989 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child place an emphasis on children remaining with family. The practicalities of supporting this across international borders are delicate and complex, requiring specialist guidance to ensure they are carried out properly and with the best interests of the child at the forefront. There is otherwise the risk of vulnerable children being placed with inappropriate carers, of children being returned to the originating local authority due to faulty legal procedures and of family breakdown because the right support measures were not proactively identified. Without this guide, vulnerable children may be denied their right to stay with family altogether.

Despite the risks, the scale of the problem for these vulnerable children is unknown. The charity Children and Families Across Borders (CFAB) estimates that there are 18,000 Looked After Children in England and Wales who may have family members abroad that could – and should – be explored as options for their long term care.<sup>2</sup> However, anecdotal evidence suggests that these children may not have their right to family upheld and, if they have, the process of family reunification is often flawed.<sup>3</sup>

With 195 countries in the world, it is not possible for this guide to cover every eventuality of kinship placement in each country. The intent is to offer a detailed guide for social workers to understand what good practice looks like – from the outset of a child entering care through to the child living with kinship carers abroad. The Cross-Border Child Safeguarding Working Group, founded in 2018 to promote cooperation of agencies involved in cross border child safeguarding cases and to discuss solutions for the challenges professionals face when working across borders, has been key to the development of this guide. One individual in particular, Melieha Long, has been instrumental in organising and guiding everyone in the process.

As the United Kingdom (UK) rebuilds following the global COVID-19 pandemic and as we complete our transition period from the European Union, this guide will become all the more important for ensuring the rights of children are upheld – no matter where they are from.

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<sup>2</sup> According to ONS, in 2016 in England and Wales, there were 196,300 non-UK born women who had live births. According to NSPCC (2017), .6% of children in England enter foster care. For children born to non-UK women, this would be 1,178 children, of which approximately 60 – or .5% - may be adopted (based on adoption from care statistics from CoraamBAAF). Children can be in foster care often up to age 16, so the 1,118 children with non-UK mothers can be scaled up by 16. This is the estimated total of 17,888 children potentially with family abroad. It does not include children whose father is not from the UK or who have extended family abroad.

<sup>3</sup> There are no official statistics on how many Looked After Children in the UK have family overseas that could potentially care for them nor how many children are sent from local authority care to live with family members abroad.

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## Executive Summary

There are more children on the move than ever before and increasing numbers of multinational and foreign-national families in the UK. In 2019, 34.3% of all children born in England and Wales had either one or both parents born outside of the UK; up from 33.8% in 2018.<sup>4</sup> When a child cannot be cared for by their parents, the first choice of alternative care, if appropriate, should be with extended family and those with a kinship bond. A child's right to preserve his or her identity, to be provided with appropriate alternative care, and for all actions to take into account the child's best interests, are enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 3, Article 8, and Article 20) and in the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (2009). When a child is deprived of parental care but has extended family members residing in another country, the same principles apply, even if this means that the placement must be coordinated across international borders.

This guide is the first of its kind which comprehensively addresses the best practice for placing Looked After Children currently in the UK into the care of a family member(s) who lives in another country. The overarching premise of this document is to ensure that all options are explored for a child in care and to provide local authorities with the tools and knowledge so that family members overseas are not unnecessarily ruled out as potential carers for children in care in the UK, particularly if this option may be in the best interests of the child.

Broadly, this guide sets out:

- The steps which should be taken whilst identifying, assessing and preparing potential carers overseas for an international kinship care placement when the child is in local authority care.
- The complexities in ensuring that orders are mirrored and/or recognised in the receiving country.
- Recommendations for the ongoing relationship between the relevant authorities in each country to ensure that responsibilities are clear and are mutually agreed.
- Barriers to permanency which would need to be considered before placement, or which would need additional support for the child and carer to ensure that the child has a successful and permanent placement.

This guide goes into detail about the intricacies of legally recognised international kinship care placements and how these can be managed, such as the carer having a limited or non-existent relationship with the child, cultural and language differences, differences in legal systems and the challenges with conducting an assessment of a potential carer overseas. These intricacies are not highlighted to dissuade the reader from exploring international options for the long term care of a child, more so to highlight that it is possible to provide a stable, loving home for a child and provide confidence that this can be achieved even with the additional considerations that apply in an international context.

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<sup>4</sup> Office of National Statistics (2020), '*Birth by parents' country of birth, England and Wales: 2019*' [Online]

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/livebirths/bulletins/parentscountryofbirthenglandandwales/2019#country-of-birth-of-non-uk-born-mothers-and-fathers>

This guide is essential reading for local authority children's services, and it is recommended that the steps outlined in this guide are followed carefully in order to promote the long-term sustainability of international kinship care placements and so that the safety and wellbeing of the child placed in them can be confirmed.

Many of the themes raised in this guide may be applicable to other types of international or domestic placements.



## Context

Despite the benefits that are associated with kinship care placements - such as allowing the child to maintain a sense of family identity - international kinship care placements are rarely considered as a long-term and permanent option for children and young people currently in care in the UK. In a research study undertaken by CFAB, freedom of information (FOI) requests were sent to over 200 UK local authorities to ask how many Looked After Children had a) family members abroad who had been explored as potential carers, and b) subsequently been placed abroad in the period from 2015 to 2017. Local authorities were also asked about the type of legal orders used to place these children abroad. With over a 95% response rate, it was found that half of local authorities which provided answers did not explore any family members abroad in this timeframe, and of those that did, none reported placing more than an average of three Looked After Children abroad per year.

As such, there is a need to ensure that local authorities are appropriately supported so that international kinship care is not just considered but is delivered where this is in the best interests of the child.

It is currently unknown how many Looked After Children in the UK have family overseas that could potentially care for them. However, with 78,150 children in care in England<sup>5</sup> alone, there will be many who have family members abroad that could be explored as options for their long-term care. Whilst the wider consideration of international kinship care placements for children should be actively encouraged, the delicate and complex nature of these placements requires specialist and comprehensive guidance to provide local authorities with the tools to ensure these placements are a success.

Interpretations of responsibilities and duties in relation to placing children with family members overseas can often vary and existing guidance does not always cover the international aspects of kinship care in great detail. As a result, without comprehensive guidance, it cannot be expected that current differences in practice (such as varying levels of information held relating to the number of overseas family connections explored for children in care, outcomes of placement assessments and legal orders used) will be resolved.

**This guide will be re-issued, with updated case studies and information, in the future. If you have any comments or contributions, please email [info@cfab.org.uk](mailto:info@cfab.org.uk). For the latest version, please check [www.cfab.org.uk](http://www.cfab.org.uk).**

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<sup>5</sup>Department for Education (2019) *Children looked after in England (including adoption), year ending 31 March 2019*, [online] [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/850306/Children\\_looked\\_after\\_in\\_England\\_2019\\_Text.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/850306/Children_looked_after_in_England_2019_Text.pdf)

# Purpose

## Aims

Without comprehensive national guidance for local authorities, it cannot be expected that practice will be consistent nor can it be expected that international kinship care will be widely considered. This guide aims to compliment and build upon existing guidance to:

- Achieve the best possible outcomes for children
- Minimise placement breakdown
- Address concerning practice
- Inspire confidence in local authorities to explore and pursue international kinship care placements on a greater scale
- Ensure that the placement of children overseas is recorded appropriately
- Clarify who takes responsibility of the child once placed, whilst maintaining contact with authorities overseas so the child is not “lost”

## Audience

This guide is addressed to and intended for:

- Directors of Children’s Services
- Managers of services for Children in Need, Children at Risk and Children in Care
- Social workers and other social care staff working with Missing Children At Risk, Children In Need and Looked After Children and local authorities’ relevant partners
- Local Authority Children’s services legal advisors

It will also be relevant to:

- Other providers of services to Children in Need, Children at Risk and Children in Care, including private and voluntary sector providers
- Kinship carers
- Children living with kinship carers
- Parents of children living with kinship carers
- Policy makers
- Law makers

## Geographical Extent

Whilst the recommended best practice for placing a child in an international kinship care placement applies to the whole of the UK, due to the legal elements underpinning this guide, this document references legislation in England only. This guide may be used for reference in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, but legal advice should always be sought particularly with reference to legal aid, financial support and legal orders where legislation may differ.

## Existing Guidance

This guide is designed to supplement the range of existing guidance including:

- Cross-border child protection cases: the 1996 Hague Convention departmental advice for local authorities, social workers, service managers and children's services lawyers (2012)<sup>6</sup> – Department for Education (DfE)
- Advice on placement of Looked After Children across Member States of the European Union (2013)<sup>7</sup> - DfE
- Working with foreign authorities: child protection cases and care orders (2014)<sup>8</sup> - DfE
- The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations Volume 2: care planning, placement and case review (2015)<sup>9</sup> - DfE
- Initial Family and Friends Care Assessment: A good practice guide (2017) – Family Rights Group<sup>10</sup>
- Recommendations to achieve best practice in the child protection and family justice systems: Special guardianship orders (2020)<sup>11</sup> – Public Law Working Group

## Defining Kinship Care

Kinship care is a term used in the United States and the United Kingdom for the raising of children by grandparents, other extended family members, and significant others with whom they have a close family-like relationship. Kinship placements are usually considered when the parents are not able to care for the child(ren). There are lots of different types of kinship

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<sup>6</sup>Department for Education (2012), *Cross-border child protection cases: the 1996 Hague Convention departmental advice for local authorities, social workers, service managers and children's services lawyers* [online]

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/280834/The\\_1996\\_Hague\\_Convention.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/280834/The_1996_Hague_Convention.pdf)

<sup>7</sup>Department for Education (2013), *Advice on placement of Looked After Children across Member States of the European Union* [online]

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/841196/placement\\_of\\_looked-after\\_children\\_in\\_eu.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/841196/placement_of_looked-after_children_in_eu.pdf)

<sup>8</sup>Department for Education (2014), *Working with foreign authorities: child protection cases and care orders* [online]

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/351145/Working\\_with\\_Foreign\\_Authorities\\_-\\_Child\\_Protection\\_and\\_Court\\_Orders.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/351145/Working_with_Foreign_Authorities_-_Child_Protection_and_Court_Orders.pdf)

<sup>9</sup>Department for Education (2015), *The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations Volume 2: care planning, placement and case review* [online]

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/441643/Children\\_Act\\_Guidance\\_2015.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/441643/Children_Act_Guidance_2015.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Family Rights Group (2017), *Initial Family and Friends Care Assessment: A good practice guide* [online] [https://www.frg.org.uk/images/Viability\\_Assessments/VIABILITY-MASTER-COPY-WHOLE-GUIDE.pdf](https://www.frg.org.uk/images/Viability_Assessments/VIABILITY-MASTER-COPY-WHOLE-GUIDE.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> Public Law Working Group (2020) *Recommendations to achieve best practice in the child protection and family justice systems: Special guardianship orders*, [online]

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PLWG-SGO-Final-Report-1.pdf>

care and, as circumstances change, the type of kinship care required may change too. Kinship care may be a permanent arrangement, usually formalised through a legal order, when the parents are not able to care for the children(ren), or a temporary and informal arrangement made privately amongst their family members, often initiated by the parents.

Kinship care includes children who may be:

- living in an informal arrangement made by their parents
- 'looked after' by the local authority and placed with kinship foster carers
- on a Child Arrangements Order or Special Guardianship Order granted by the court, or
- in arrangements which are due to lead to adoption by a relative or friend.

Kinship carers are also often referred to as 'family and friends carers' or 'connected people' by UK local authorities and in official documents. The guidance that follows is about the process of assessing and placing children, who are in the care of the local authority, with carers overseas through a route which has been agreed in law.

## Section 1 - Process

This section sets out the near chronological process for assessing the most suitable arrangement for the long-term care of children in the UK with potential kinship carers overseas and ultimately placing children with a kinship carer overseas. It is split into four sections: pre-proceedings, during proceedings, placement and permanency planning, and post proceedings. The sections cover actions and considerations that should be taken at those times. For example, post-placement support is within the ‘during proceedings’ section as consideration of the delivery of post-placement support should be completed before children are placed, not after.

### Pre-proceedings

A broad range of information should be gathered, and any legal issues should be clarified before proceedings – including routes to permanency and initial screening assessments. For example, capturing the child’s citizenship(s) should be done at an early stage. Citizenship should not be assumed based on where the child resides, where the child was born, or based on the citizenship of their mother and father. The relevant embassy or consulate should be consulted at the earliest opportunity so that all necessary documents (birth certificate, passports and copies of the parents’ passports) can be obtained in order to confidently ascertain the child’s citizenship. Data protection concerns will need to be considered in this process. Determining the child’s citizenship is incredibly important at this early stage as it will help to determine the immigration status of the child both whilst placing them overseas and beyond their placement (i.e. will they continue to have right to remain in the country after they become an adult?). This will also help to determine their entitlement to any local statutory services for the child and their carers, as well as which type of assessment will be required. In line with this, the immigration status of the prospective carer should also be checked to confirm their own status within the country where they reside and any impact on the child’s subsequent status.

Overseas social service record checks and police checks of the potential carer(s) are also best undertaken during pre-proceedings, as the process for obtaining these may be lengthy. Consideration should be given as to the different ways in which these documents can be obtained and how this might differ depending on the country. Often it might be the prospective carer that has to provide them rather than an overseas partner agency, and there may be costs attached depending on how they are obtained. Please see Annex A for details of which organisations local authorities should contact to facilitate and obtain these. Before obtaining these checks, consent from the family member abroad will need to be obtained. Depending on the circumstances of the case, the local authority may also wish to investigate whether DNA tests are possible to obtain if there are any concerns with regards to the legitimacy of the family connection. In conjunction with these checks, it is generally good practice to start considering gathering evidence of social history of the family as this can help determine jurisdiction later.

Local authorities may wish to consider prior to, or in the early stages of initiating care proceedings, arranging a ‘Family Group Conference’ to empower the family to identify support within the family network, identify solutions and come up with a mutually agreed plan for the child’s care. Where possible, participation of family members overseas should be

promoted, even if only possible through a virtual medium. Through this method, if the parent(s) cannot provide adequate and safe care to the children, it allows the family – with support from a Family Group Conference coordinator and a social worker – to explore who else may be able to care for the child. Where it is determined that a family member from overseas is best placed to care for the child, the process of the family group conference will help to identify other sources of support that the carer might be able to rely on for the duration that the child is in their care. By including family members from overseas, this allows them to be more aware of the existing issues and the concerns prior to proceedings. This may provide them with a better understanding of the circumstances, rather than one which is relayed to them via the parents.

Social workers always should be alert to modern slavery and trafficking issues – particularly when considering the long-term care of children, including placing children overseas. Under section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, certain public authorities, including local authorities, must notify the Home Office where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person may be a victim of slavery or human trafficking. Practitioners should be aware of any historical trafficking issues, indicators of trafficking and procedures when trafficking is suspected.

### **Initial Screening Assessments ('Viability' Assessments)**

Local authorities interpret the term 'viability assessment' differently, so in this section we refer to initial screening assessments. At this stage, the local authority should seek to conduct an initial screening assessment to ascertain if the family members overseas are interested in being put forward as potential alternative carers for the child. This is also used to determine the potential carer's basic conditions and ability to care to either rule them out, or to confirm that they are potentially suitable to proceed with a full assessment. This should also be used to make sure they are willing to be part of proceedings and have an understanding of the situation.

The initial screening assessment gives an overview of what the overseas family can offer in terms of care and can include an analysis of risks and strengths, as well as options for support needs, in order to inform the full assessment requirements. The initial screening assessment should not replace a full assessment and often will not be sufficient to gauge overall viability unless there are obvious reasons to rule potential carers out.

The charity Family Rights Group has produced an 'Initial Family and Friends Care Assessment: A good practice guide' which largely focuses on domestic (UK) practice for viability assessments and the Intercountry Adoption Centre also gives advice through its Outbound advice service on viability assessments. A template initial screening assessment is given in Annex B.

### **Legal Aid/Entitlement to legal assistance**

There is a great deal of complexity that comes with arranging for a lawyer in the UK to provide support to a kinship carer overseas to allow them to be party to proceedings, if necessary. Local authorities should be prepared to inform the kinship carer if they are able to access legal aid and how they can do this. It is important that the carer receives legal advice from a lawyer who can advise them on English law, including how they can secure the right support from the local authority. Kinship carers should receive legal advice from a family law specialist in the country where the child will be living as well to ensure they can effectively mirror any

English court orders, or other orders, which will provide them with parental responsibility for the child. The local authority may assist financially in this process as it will help ensure the sustainability of the placement for the child.

If the placement is to last at least until the child reaches 18 years, and placement breakdown is to be avoided, it is essential that the local authority and the prospective carer understand the implications of what happens if things go wrong as well as what legal services they can access locally. Independent legal advice in both jurisdictions is only achieved in some cases but always should be sought.

Potential carers should also be informed of their right to challenge the outcome of the assessment – for example if it determines that they are not deemed to be a suitable carer for the child, and they have reasonable grounds to dispute this, they may wish to challenge the decision.

## **During Proceedings**

### **Assessments**

#### **Types of Assessments**

For the purposes of this document, the terms “full assessment” or “kinship assessment” are used interchangeably to cover all types of complete assessment of an overseas carer used to determine suitability for the care of a child currently in the UK. This term is used to differentiate from initial screening assessments which do not assess the carer and their capacity to care for the child in full. It is also recognised that this covers several terms which are used variably amongst different local authorities in the UK which can be confusing in an international context whereby the receiving country does not recognise the term. As such, a full explanation of what is covered under this definition can be found in the Glossary of this document. The charity Children and Families Across Borders has developed a template which combines the kinship assessments of various local authorities and is a common reference for the International Social Service network.

It is worth noting that although good practice dictates that local authorities should be considering full assessments at this stage, in reality some local authorities may need to commission initial screening assessments during proceedings if they have not yet taken place.

#### **Ways of Obtaining an Assessment**

Local authorities should consider the different ways of obtaining a full assessment from overseas. Whilst the most effective and recommended method of obtaining an assessment is to seek contact with a social worker based in the country of the potential carer who can perform the assessment<sup>12</sup>, there are other ways in which one can be achieved. However, these often come with caveats – which will be outlined below – and will need to be carefully handled to ensure that nothing is missed which may jeopardise chances of permanency.

Cases with an international element require an adapted approach: longer timeframes to allow for information gathering and sharing with authorities overseas; greater financial investment;

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<sup>12</sup> IFSW (2014) *IFSW Guiding Principles for Social Workers concerning their role in the assessment of children's cases that cross nation state borders*. [online] [https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/ifsw-cdn/assets/ifsw\\_115710-9.pdf](https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/ifsw-cdn/assets/ifsw_115710-9.pdf)

and the ability to navigate new processes and collaborate with different agencies, such as foreign embassies, consulates and Central Authorities. For reference, the referral form of the English Central Authority for the 1996 Hague Convention is provided in Annex C. It is increasingly possible to collaborate with child protection authorities overseas, supported by international conventions which have formal mechanisms for collaboration.

### **Gaining the Cooperation of Overseas Authorities**

Working with an overseas authority can be a complex process due to language differences, different systems and processes, as well as different legal instruments, thresholds for intervention and threshold criteria for legal proceedings. Even the UK will have different thresholds between different local authorities. It is therefore essential to start the collaborative process as soon as possible and consult with the different agencies (details in Annex A) in the early stages of planning. Some local authorities will already have pre-agreed Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with other statutory agencies abroad and may – depending on the established relationship – find it effective to cooperate via this route.

It is important to seek contact with professionals with strong knowledge of the local area, and with a sound understanding of the location and any associated practices and/or customs. This will ensure that the social worker can provide an accurate representation of both the potential carer, but also of the area within which they reside, to ascertain whether it would be suitable for the child in question.

In recognition of the specific requirements that the UK courts require from an assessment report, when commissioning an assessment and a subsequent report from a social worker abroad, there are a number of points of best practice. Local authority and court processes in the UK should be clearly explained to the overseas social worker conducting the assessment so that they are clear on their requirements.

It is best to prepare a good case summary including the relevant information about the case that the assessor will need to know, including any special needs of the child. This should cover a set of clear topics and/or questions for the assessor to address and background information in summary format. This is preferable over the sharing of entire court bundles with the overseas authority or social worker as there are potential safeguarding and data protection issues in scenarios where the case may include previous assessments of other individuals or family members. It is also time consuming to provide the entire court bundle as not all of the information contained within it will be relevant to the child concerned and it can be confusing for a non-UK social worker. Social workers are advised to take legal advice before disclosing court documents and, if necessary, to seek the permission of the court for disclosure.

Confidential information should not be included within this summary (for example historical sexual abuse or a confidential address of the child in foster care) unless it is absolutely necessary for the assessment, in which case it should be clearly marked as confidential. It is best to avoid jargon within the summary and, if necessary, relevant documents should be translated into the language of the receiving social worker.

In some cases, adopting a structured collaborative approach for an assessment can pose challenges to resolving a case. Notably, there can be long timeframes when waiting for information from abroad, misunderstandings in communication, and overseas social workers may not necessarily understand the assessment requirements of local authorities and UK courts. In these instances, the local authority can adapt their approach by undertaking a joint or split assessment.



## Alternative Approaches

### Split assessment

A split assessment is when a portion of the assessment is completed by the local social worker abroad and a portion is completed by the UK social worker, who remains in the UK. For example, the overseas social worker can assess the family home and community, identify local support for the family, undertake record checks and make their recommendation about the suitability of the prospective carers. The prospective carers can then travel to the UK to complete further assessment with the UK social worker, including observing them with the child. This additionally gives the potential carer the opportunity to talk to the child's current foster carer to understand what caring for the child is like; it also establishes a link between the current and prospective carers which could aid on-going indirect contact when the potential carers return home.

While there may be difficulties in obtaining a full cultural understanding of the potential carer's suitability while the UK social worker completes their section of the assessment, the UK social worker's assessment can supplement the overseas social worker's report and ensure that the full assessment is completed to UK specifications, if this is clearly the only way to obtain critical information.

### Joint assessment

A joint assessment is when the UK social worker completes the assessment alongside a local social worker abroad, who contributes local knowledge and understanding of resources and culture. There will be an agreement made between the competent authority in the UK (the local authority) and abroad before the assessment begins, and the UK social worker will have the correct permissions, appropriate work visa and insurance to travel abroad. In certain countries, CFAB can help to arrange joint assessment work including helping to make the domestic travel arrangements and escorting the UK social workers to meet the carers.

### Independent or local authority social workers travelling abroad

It can be risky, unethical and sometimes illegal for UK social workers to practice their profession in countries where they are not registered as social workers and where they may be unfamiliar with the culture and environment. Social work is a registered profession in many countries - in order to practice social work in these countries, one must be registered with the accreditation body (just as in the UK, where social workers must be registered with the national regulatory body). It is also important to respect professional jurisdiction and recognise that local professionals are, in many ways, best placed to complete assessments in their territory.

There are also a number of pieces of UK Government guidance which advise against UK social workers travelling abroad or which indicate the difficulties which might be experienced in doing so. For example, in the Department for Education's guidance "Working with foreign authorities: child protection cases and care orders" it states the following, which indicates the benefits of working with colleagues abroad against sending a UK social worker:

*"A good assessment should systematically draw on all the evidence available so that the social worker can make an informed decision. Social workers should consider working with colleagues abroad when assessing a family with links abroad, unless doing so is likely to place the child or family in danger. This may provide a more holistic picture, and help the social*

*worker understand the unique characteristics of a child within their family, cultural, religious, ethnic and community context<sup>13</sup>*”

Furthermore, the guidance also indicates that “It is inadvisable for an English social worker to travel overseas to work on cases unless they have first contacted the relevant foreign authority. English social workers’ qualifications may not be automatically recognised overseas, and it is therefore important to check that the social worker has the appropriate licences and legal cover to undertake this work.<sup>14</sup>”

There are also potential risks to the social worker if the family which is being assessed becomes uncooperative which may result in accusations of malpractice being made against the social worker. In this case, the social worker will be subject to the local laws and procedures in that country. This is because, as the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office guidance clearly states, “we cannot interfere in another country’s processes and must respect their systems, just as we expect them to respect the UK’s laws and legal processes<sup>15</sup>”

For more details on the risks and limitations associated with sending social workers abroad to perform assessments, please refer to CFAB’s factsheet: UK Social Workers Practising Overseas<sup>16</sup>.

In some cases, a local authority may decide that there is no alternative to the social worker travelling abroad, for example where it is not possible to connect with a local professional because there is no Central Authority or International Social Service (ISS) partner in that country. In these cases, the UK local authority should risk assess the plans and consult with the other country to ensure that the social worker:

- is covered by all relevant insurance policies
- has the correct permission to travel and complete the assessment overseas, from their own authorities but also those overseas, including the equivalent social services department, and
- has checked and complied with Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office foreign travel advice.

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<sup>13</sup> Department for Education (2014), Working with foreign authorities: child protection cases and care orders, [Pg. 6] [Online]

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/351145/Working\\_with\\_Foreign\\_Authorities\\_-\\_Child\\_Protection\\_and\\_Court\\_Orders.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/351145/Working_with_Foreign_Authorities_-_Child_Protection_and_Court_Orders.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Department for Education (2014), Working with foreign authorities: child protection cases and care orders, [Pg. 9] [Online]

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/351145/Working\\_with\\_Foreign\\_Authorities\\_-\\_Child\\_Protection\\_and\\_Court\\_Orders.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/351145/Working_with_Foreign_Authorities_-_Child_Protection_and_Court_Orders.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (2019), *Support for British nationals abroad: summary. Pt. 6 “What kind of help we can provide”* [online]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-british-nationals-abroad-a-guide/support-for-british-nationals-abroad-summary>

<sup>16</sup> Children and Families Across Borders (2020), *UK Social Workers Practising Overseas – Assessing Family Members Abroad*. [online] <http://cfab-cms.bitmachine.co.uk/sites/default/files/2020-05/UK%20Social%20Workers%20Practising%20Overseas%20May%202020.pdf>

Although it is always recommended to work with a social worker that is local to the area where an assessment is to be completed<sup>17</sup>, if all other options are exhausted and it is necessary to send a UK-based social worker abroad, it is good practice to send a social worker who has knowledge of the country's culture and practices.

If during travel, the social worker requires consular assistance, they should contact the nearest British Embassy, High Commission or Consulate. If the social worker is not British, they should contact the nearest Consulate of their nationality.

In any of these circumstances, assessments should always take into consideration, prior to any full assessment being commissioned, the views and wishes of the children. The UK local authority social worker or Cafcass guardian should obtain these views and inform the overseas social worker of these for them to take into consideration for the assessment. This process is especially important when a child has lived in the UK for some time and may have significant others, including the parents, with whom they are close (i.e. siblings, half-siblings, step-siblings, friends etc.). The impact of the separation on the child's emotional and mental wellbeing must be taken into consideration when undertaking the assessment, both to ascertain the suitability of placing the child overseas in the first place, but also to ascertain the capability of the proposed carer to comfort the child if this is determined to be a potential cause for concern. The carer's ability to facilitate ongoing contact should also be a consideration. The social worker overseas should bear this in mind when assessing and this should be supported by effective contact and cooperation between the two local authorities to ensure that the child's needs and wishes are fully communicated. Where there is a nationality or immigration issue, the child's views need to be considered as part of any decision making. Depending on the child's capacity, they or the local authority should obtain legal advice on the implications of the placement on immigration and nationality. There is now legal aid available for children in care for immigration matters – this includes advice on immigration, nationality and EU matters. The child will need advice both on their current status and the impact of the placement on immigration and nationality rights in the future.

## **Placement/Permanency Planning**

### **Access to support**

Local authorities should inform kinship carers of their right to request assessment for support which, in some circumstances, can include ongoing financial support. The placement plan should identify who (UK Local Authority or Overseas authority) is responsible for any support provided. The plan should also make clear the support expected from the carer, for example school tuition fees and medical insurance, if applicable.

Whatever support is offered, once the placement is made, should be detailed in the placement plan and there should be an agreement as to the duration of the support including a mutually determined cut-off date which is suitable based on the child's needs. There are currently no legal requirements which determine the length of time for which the UK local

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<sup>17</sup> IFSW (2014) *IFSW Guiding Principles for Social Workers concerning their role in the assessment of children's cases that cross nation state borders*. [online] [https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/ifsw-cdn/assets/ifsw\\_115710-9.pdf](https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/ifsw-cdn/assets/ifsw_115710-9.pdf)

authority should retain responsibility for the child after an international placement is made. In absence of these requirements, it is good practice to agree a time period which should give sufficient time both for the child and carer to settle into the placement, but also to identify any additional challenges or needs. It is recommended that the involvement of a local authority permanency team, or associated financial support, is longer than what would be expected in domestic placements particularly as domestic placements are likely to have been previously tested – which is not possible in international placements. In England, Special Guardianship support is the responsibility of the placing authority for three years. Given the additional risks associated with an overseas placement, the local authority may be involved for a longer period of time as it is their duty of care to the child to ensure they are in a good placement.

Placement plans should have some flexibility as more needs may be identified during the period in which the UK local authority still retains responsibility. During this period, it is important to conduct a review of the placement to assess what support the carers may need and what support is locally available to help them adjust to the child's changing and specific needs. Post-placement visits can be facilitated in certain countries which will help to identify any additional needs and can make recommendations which may make edits to the placement plan to ensure that the carer can continue to support the child and achieve permanency.

Local authorities should also provide information as to what services the child can access in future as a former Looked After Child (if applicable). Consideration should be given with regards to whether the country's social services system has a leaving care or continuous care programme themselves and indeed whether it is something to which the child will have access. Assumptions should not be made that the country will have a similar system to the UK of continuous care beyond childhood. Even if a country does have a similar leaving care system, it should be considered that the thresholds will be different for access than if the child had remained in care in the UK. Often it is very unlikely that the child will be entitled to any kind of continuous care or preferential access to schools. One thing that should be considered and explored is the eligibility of the child to maintain their UK citizenship as well as obtaining citizenship in the country where they are placed. This may also affect their entitlement as a care leaver as well as if the plan details that the child will return to the UK in the event of a placement breakdown. Many countries will allow the child to maintain dual-citizenship until they reach a certain (adult) age, when they will then have to choose one.

## **Contingency planning**

Contingency planning should be executed between the UK local authority and the receiving authority in which the overseas kinship carer is resident. This should aim to make provisions for which authority will take responsibility for the child if there is a placement breakdown within a specified amount of time. This timeframe should be determined between the two authorities.

Consideration should also be given as to the social services system of the receiving country and assumptions should not be made that the country has a robust child protection system which will safeguard the child if the placement breaks down. Many countries have systems that only operate for their own citizens. British or other nationality children with residency may not be entitled to any service for the duration of their childhood. At the same time, it should not be assumed that the country and/or locale does not have sufficient support

structures available, just because they might be different to that in the UK. Another key consideration would be if the country has a leaving care service and if the child would be entitled to access it. If not, the child may be at risk of having little to no support from the carer or the local authority in the receiving country putting them at greater risk of destitution and poorer life chances, once they are of age to leave their care. Whilst this should not necessarily be an instant barrier to a placement, it should be considered on a case by case basis, against the complexity of the child's needs and the capability of the carer.

Where a child will be placed in a kinship care arrangement overseas, or where overseas local authority intervention will be required in relation to the placement, consent must be sought from the 'competent authority' to the placement in advance in states signatory to the 1996 Hague Convention. It is for the overseas authority to consider whether the placement is one that requires their consent under the 1996 Hague Convention, so do check beforehand. Regardless, it is good practice to liaise with relevant authorities overseas prior to placing any child there as part of a post-placement plan, irrespective of whether or not the country is a 1996 Hague Convention state.

Local authorities should also maintain good co-operation with the receiving country and aim, where possible, to foster good relationships. This should work to minimise placement breakdown as good communication should ensure that arising issues are communicated and managed more efficiently, but also facilitate the aforementioned contingency planning arrangements for if the placement *does* breakdown. The decision should already have been made as to which authorities (in which country) would take responsibility for the child in that scenario, based on a pre-agreed timeframe to allow sufficient time for a child to settle into their new arrangement.

## **Post-placement Planning**

Post-placement planning should be undertaken and considered as part of the placement plan itself and conducted prior to the child being placed. Local authorities should liaise with local professionals – either statutory or private - to request that post-placement visits are completed in order to identify any additional support needed by the carers and the child. These visits should take place at least during the settling in period, if not ongoing.

Local authorities need to assess if carers are eligible for any financial support and to work with the authorities in the receiving country to ascertain what local support they may be eligible for. Local authorities will also need to take a decision if they need to provide support which may assist with the child settling in to their new care arrangement. For example, psychological support may be necessary in the early stages.

Post-placement plans should also include information and plans for maintaining contact with whomever the child knows in the UK, such as half siblings, parents, close friends, etc. This plan should also detail how these contacts should take place including who should have contact with the child, how frequently, for how long and through what medium (i.e. by phone call, video call, email or direct contact).

Play therapy may also be a useful tool to encourage the child to express their feelings about the placement and their new living arrangements through play. Life story work, including a Words and Pictures storyboard, may also be considered as beneficial to allow the child to have an appropriate understanding of their family history prior to their placement with family overseas. Depending on their development, there is a risk that a child may develop an

imagined story in relation to their previous living arrangements and family members. This could lead to a sense of being unaware of their identity or having an identity that is misplaced due to building up a picture of their life which is inaccurate<sup>18</sup>. Life story work should not be ruled out, however, if a child is not yet demonstrating signs of identity misplacement as this is still a beneficial tool to help them understand their family history and make sense of the reason why they are with a different family member now. This is why it is important to ensure that there is a review of the placement to ensure its sustainability and to identify any future developmental or psychological needs. Life story work is something that should start in the UK and then the information should be shared with the child and carer. However, it should be considered that the carer may need support in understanding the information and life story work more generally, and how they can use this information to better care for and assist the child.

## Transition planning

Planning should be undertaken which prepares both the child and the family for the actual placement itself. There are several things to consider including who should accompany the child when they travel overseas to their new home. Depending on the circumstances and depending on what is deemed to be the most comforting for the child, children's services departments may wish to ask the approved carer from overseas to come to the UK to collect the child and take them back with them. Alternatively, it may be considered best that the child is prepared to go to the country accompanied by a UK social worker, foster carer or other approved family member. These considerations should all be made with the intention to reduce the shock, uncertainty and nervousness that a child may feel whilst moving from one country, to a potentially unfamiliar country.

Further consideration should be given to how to introduce the child to the family member(s) that will be taking care of them. This will again be contingent on whether the child and the carer have already met and whether they have an existing relationship. In order to facilitate a smooth transition and in the best interests of the child, it is best practice to ensure that they have contact with the prospective carer – and other household family members - as soon as possible so that they can start their relationship at the earliest opportunity – this contact is best considered during proceedings. There are specific care planning duties towards children who are looked after. The criteria in the welfare checklist under s1(3) Children Act 1989 are important to keep in mind:

1. The ascertainable wishes and feelings of the child concerned
2. The child's physical, emotional and educational needs
3. The likely effect on the child if circumstances changed as a result of the court's decision
4. The child's age, sex, backgrounds and any other characteristics which will be relevant to the court's decision
5. Any harm the child has suffered or maybe at risk of suffering
6. Capability of the child's parents (or any other person the courts find relevant) at meeting the child's needs
7. The powers available to the court in the given proceedings

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<sup>18</sup> Kammer, Betsy Keefer and Jayne E. Schooler (2000). *Mystery history : helping your foster-adopted child understand the past*. Westport: Bergin & Garvey.



Even if the placement does not end up going ahead, this family support and connection may become a positive relationship for the child and will foster the child's sense of belonging and build their family identity. It should be considered what kind of contact is appropriate and accessible for the child based on their age, computer literacy and access to technology.

Transition plans should also be as detailed as possible to provide the carer with a "script" of what they should consider saying in response to certain questions that the child may have. The social worker or foster carer will have the most experience of understanding the types of questions that the child has asked, and what their interests are, so they are best placed to establish a question and answer script. It may be beneficial to rehearse this with the carer so that they are well versed to respond to any challenging questions as they arise. A good transition plan should advise responses to questions that the child may have such as "why am I not with my parents anymore?" to maintain consistency with what they have already been told so as to avoid upsetting or confusing the child. To aid with the transition planning it would be beneficial to consider pre-placement training and preparation for the carer so they can be prepared for these challenges and others, including how they manage their potential dual role as carers and grandparents, for example. An example transition plan/partnership agreement can be found at Annex D.

Additional information to include in the transition plan can be what food the child likes and dislikes and – importantly - anything they might be allergic to. The transition plan can also include the child's current bed time routine, what toys and books they enjoy and what sports and activities they like participating in. This information, whilst small, is crucial to ensuring that the transition from one home to another – particularly when there may be significant cultural differences in the two places – is as seamless as possible, to ensure that the child feels comfortable in the change.

The social worker should ensure that the post placement support and contingency plan is communicated clearly to the carer. A good transition plan should indicate any cultural differences that the child might be used to that the carer should be aware of to make the child feel more comfortable – for example, the child may be used to receiving a hug for reassurance and that might not be customary in the receiving country. Thorough detail of these nuances are important to communicate clearly to the carer, even where it might feel like too minute a detail. It is important to thoroughly research the customs in the receiving country or locale – which is why it is helpful to foster good relations with the authorities in the receiving country – as certain customs – or lack thereof - may make a child upset or uncomfortable if they are/are not used to them.

## **Recognition and/or Mirroring Orders**

At an early stage, specialist legal advice should be sought about the recognition and enforcement, or 'mirroring' of orders in the other country to ensure that, if the child is placed abroad, the guardianship of the child will be legally recognised. It is important that the carer seeks to obtain legal parental responsibility so they can take care of the children without any legal challenge. This should also prevent biological parents from trying to take back the children on grounds of parental responsibility. Without parental responsibility, carers may also face difficulties in getting access to social benefits, education and/or medical treatment for the child who is placed with them. It is not always the case that the parents' parental responsibility is removed and, in the cases where it is retained for the parents, it is always

advisable that the carers have primary legal parental responsibility (that outweighs that of the parents).

Each country varies with regards to how they approach the legal recognition of UK orders and confirming parental responsibility. In some countries, a local order will only give parental responsibility in relation to residence and not over-riding parental responsibility, which leaves a legal loophole allowing for local legal challenge by the birth parent/s at a later stage. As such, legal advice will need to be sought from the relevant country in which the child will be placed about the procedure for securing recognition and enforcement / a mirror order. If needed, the carer should be supported to obtain legal advice overseas in the country where the child will reside. The Central Authority in that country might be able to provide information about processes abroad.

Court orders made in the UK for placement in a country that is signatory to the 1996 Hague Convention *should* be automatically recognised by the other country, but additional steps can be made to make sure this recognition is certain. If placing a child in a 1996 Hague Convention contracting State, then the carer can ask for advance recognition of the order under which the child is placed under Article 24. Seeking clarification early on can help ensure the order contains the correct information to assist the carer.

An order can be made in the country where the child is placed to 'mirror' the order made in the UK. This is an option for countries not covered by the 1996 Hague Convention. Overseas carers should be provided with the appropriate support and guidance in order to mirror the placement support order locally. This will help to ensure the permanency of the child's placement. Carers should be provided with all the necessary paperwork including legal documents to enable them to exercise their legal parental responsibilities including that of accessing an appropriate mirror order and ensuring adequate health and educational provisions for the child. It should be ensured that the carer has original copies of all court and other official documents, including birth certificates as well as school and medical reports and that the key documents are translated into the language of the country where the child will reside. Some countries also require Hague Apostille certificates to authenticate documents.

## Country Examples

These country examples outline the varying processes in different countries for the mirroring or recognition of UK orders. In some of these examples, there is automatic recognition by nature of being a signatory state to the 1996 Hague Convention, or previously, Brussels IIA Regulation. In other examples, such as so-called non-Hague countries, there are different examples of mirror orders and processes to obtain parental responsibility.

Consideration should be given to whether it may be beneficial to support the carer in applying for a local order even if the order from the UK is recognised under the 1996 Hague Convention. This is because in some circumstances, it can legally be difficult to care for a child with a foreign care order even if that order is recognised by the receiving country.



### **Country Example: Bulgaria**

There have never been examples of mirror orders in Bulgarian case law. If someone were to file an application for a mirror order in a court in Bulgaria, the application would most likely be rejected by the court and a mirror order will not be issued. However, as a result of being a signatory to the 1996 Hague convention there should be automatic recognition of the court order in Bulgaria, although it will not necessarily be mirrored. As such, it can be difficult to care for a child with a foreign care order. This should not deter placement in Bulgaria but should be considered when it comes to promoting the stability of the placement.

### **Country Example: Italy**

As a signatory to 1996 Hague Convention - any measures taken by the authorities of Contracting States shall be recognized by operations of law in all other contracting states. Jurisdiction in matters of parental responsibility lies with the Italian Courts when:

- the child is habitually resident in Italy at the time the Court is seized (general jurisdiction);
- the child's habitual residence cannot be established, and jurisdiction cannot be determined otherwise (residual jurisdiction) if the child is in Italy at the time the Court is seized (residual jurisdiction).

Custody decisions are made in the best interest of the child (like in the UK where the child's welfare is of paramount consideration).

### **SGOs and Affidamento Familiare:**

There is a parallel between the UK law and Italian law when it comes to SGOs. The Italian procedure is called "affido" or "affidamento familiare", meaning child custody, which can be applied to a single individual or to more than one. An affido can be terminated only with an Order issued by the Authority under which it was granted and will only be considered if it is deemed to be in the child's best interests, due to the child's family difficulties coming to an end or that the continuance of the Order would be detrimental to the child. There are some variations between the UK SGO and the Italian Affidato, but the two procedures are largely the same.

### **Country Example: Poland**

The Special Guardianship Order does not have an exact parallel within the Polish legal system. Consequently, according to the Family and the System of Foster Care Act of 9 June 2011 in Poland, a kinship placement is considered as a kinship foster placement endorsed by a Guardianship Court. Should the alternative carers be habitually resident in Poland, the placement in Poland would be effective once the Court having jurisdiction consults the Central Authority or other authority in that Member State requesting the acceptance of the placement by the competent Court within that jurisdiction. Thus, applicable steps must be undertaken to obtain the consent to the placement by the Polish Authorities.

According to the Council Regulation Brussels II Bis (EC) No 2201/2003 art. 56 as well as Hague Convention 1996 the procedures for consultation/ obtaining the consent shall be governed by the national law of the responding State. In Poland, this is completed by the competent Court respective to the locality of the potential Special Guardians. This, post final orders, enables the Special Guardians to exercise the care over the child in Poland, secures access to relevant benefits and support for the child/children and the Special Guardian/s. This procedure also provides confirmation that the placement will be regarded as a kinship foster placement in Poland. To this effect, when the UK Court is minded to endorse a possible care plan of the kinship placement in Poland, it is recommended that a separate hearing is arranged at least 1 month prior to the final hearing as this would allow for the request for acceptance to be sent to the relevant Polish Court. It is crucial that an order requesting acceptance is accompanied by a draft pro forma SGO with a supplement which sets out the meaning and the effect of the SGO in English domestic law. Other documentation required includes the assessment of the candidate/s, the threshold document or the fact finding judgement affording the Court in Poland with the relevant information, birth certificate of the child/children and the declaration from the prospective carers about their willingness to care for the child/children till the age of 18. The documentation would need to be translated into Polish.

The final order in the UK would be subject to automatic recognition in Poland. It is therefore essential that the final order is accompanied by a supplement which sets out the meaning and the effect of the SGO in English domestic law as well as a separate order in relation to any specific child arrangements if applicable. Consequently, consideration should be given whether issuance of Specific Issue Order is also essential to for example dispense with the consent of the parents in relation to matters which require consent of all those with parental responsibility. When the English Court Order is acknowledged by Polish Guardianship Court, it is listed in a special Repertory. Subsequently, the Court allocates a Court Curator to monitor and supervise the placement. The Court also conveys the decisions set out in the order to the respective branch of Social Services in Poland, so that the family can be supported adequately.

## **Post Proceedings**

### **Practical arrangements for the child's arrival.**

Consideration should be given to the physical and practical arrangements that need to be conducted in order to place the child with the family member. This includes arranging the flights and transport to and from the airport. Consideration should be given to arranging an interpreter upon their arrival if this is needed. Depending on what arrangement is agreed during the transition plan with regards to who will accompany the child when they make their journey overseas, local authorities and/or social workers will need to be engaged to help facilitate the meeting between the child and carer once the child arrives in the new country.

## **Section 2: Identifying and Pre-empting barriers, challenges and concerns that may impact on permanency.**

### **Steps to take to ensure specific challenges are addressed and that the kinship carer is sufficiently supported**

#### **Introduction**

This section details some of the challenges which might arise when placing a child with a kinship carer overseas. Some of these challenges are not necessarily unique to an international placement, however the international element can add an additional level of difficulty which anyone entering into or facilitating an international placement should be aware of. This section is designed to pre-empt and address any of these difficulties and allow the authorities in both countries to consider the best ways in which the kinship carer and the child can be supported so that a) the new placement is successful b) the kinship carer has all the resources available in order to fulfil that.

#### **Challenge 1: Access to Resources and Community Support**

It is important not to assume that the receiving country does not have appropriate resources to support a placement. Such assumptions may lead to a potential carer in another country no longer being considered even when there are sufficient resources to allow the child to have a successful placement. However, this does not mean that care should not be taken when assessing a child's developing and potentially complex needs and whether there are resources available that will provide support. Particularly, if it has been identified that the child has specific needs - whether that is medical, behavioural, educational or related to a disability – it should be identified if the country and the local area has sufficient support and resources available to address these needs. Furthermore, the capacity of the carer themselves to support the child with these needs should be assessed and information should be provided to them on where they can access additional support, whether that is physical or financial. Their responsibilities as carers (such as paying for healthcare and education if applicable) should be communicated to them clearly so that they are able to provide the child with the support that they need.

Before placement, social workers should consider any emotional and behavioural difficulties that the child has and the capability of the carer to address these and support the child to learn, develop and hopefully overcome these. Consideration should be given as to whether there is any community support in the receiving country that might help the carer in providing such support. Otherwise, consideration should be given to whether the UK local authority will continue to provide support to the child and carer to address any behavioural issues and whether this should be time limited.

If the child has any disabilities (including learning disabilities), the extent to which the carer is able to support the child with these should be considered and specific support plans should be put in place which identify and respond to these needs. Where a child has very specific health needs / disability, a detailed letter from their treating specialist should be obtained

and translated so that the carers and the overseas authorities have full understanding of the child's needs, as well as what services they are likely to require at placement and through to adulthood. Consideration should be given as to the quality of the healthcare system in the placement country and whether the child would be able to access medical and/or physiological care for any disabilities. More generally, local authorities need to ensure that they have discussions with overseas authorities and the potential carer to ascertain if they can afford healthcare and to make the carer aware of their responsibility to pay for the child's healthcare if it is not universal.

Consideration should be given as to what the education system is in the country and how it is accessed. For example, is it free to attend or is there a fee? Is the carer able to pay for and provide uniform for the child? Particularly if the child has learning disabilities, is there specialist support that can be obtained via the child's school which will support them in their learning?

It should also be considered if the carer is eligible to apply for any benefits in their country. This again highlights the importance of working collaboratively with the overseas authorities so that the carer can access as much support as they are entitled to. This should also feature within the placement plan. It may take a while for the carer to be able to apply for these benefits, therefore it is recommended that the local authority takes this into consideration when deciding about the financial assistance needed to be provided to the carer during this postponement as during this time they would not be receiving applicable benefits deriving from the status of a kinship foster placement.

## **Challenge 2: No / Limited Pre-existing Relationship With Child**

Consideration should be given with regards to how the carer intends to develop a relationship with a child whom they may have never met. This can be addressed initially in a good quality and highly detailed transition plan. Initiating contact with the child safely prior to completing proceedings will be highly beneficial and can be done through video calls, letter writing, cards, etc. This also helps promote use of another language, if appropriate, in the destination country. Engaging in a family group conference may also be beneficial to help the carer understand the needs of the child and allow the carer to meet the child and other family members so that they can build those relationships at an early stage.

Assessments of a potential carer should acknowledge if they already have children of their own and should assess how they intend to balance the needs of their own children with those of the child who is placed with them. Early engagements with the carer will help to assess how they interact with their own children and how this might be different to what the child is used to. Again, a detailed transition plan should prepare the carer to acknowledge and potentially amend these differences or to ensure that the child is made to feel as much part of the family as the other children that they will be sharing a home with. Facilitating contact between the carer's existing children and the child to be placed may also prove beneficial to fostering positive relationships and may help the child feel more comfortable in transitioning to live with them if they already have met – even if this is only possible via phone or a virtual platform.

### Challenge 3: Cultural Differences

Consideration should be given with regards to the likely differences in culture, language and practices that the child might not be used to in the receiving country. Similarly, consideration and planning should be executed to ensure that the child's existing identity is maintained and supported by the new carer. These differences highlight the importance of local collaboration and having contact with social workers in the local area who will usually be better placed to identify these differences. It is important with regards to culture to also consider the limitations of involvement with certain practices. For example, some cultural differences, such as the preference of not engaging in physical affection such as hugging or hand holding might be upsetting for a child but are differences which can be ironed out with a good transition plan to make the carer aware of the child's preferences. These differences should not necessarily affect a decision on whether a child should be placed or not if these are cultural differences that cause no physical, emotional or psychological harm to the child and where the carer is assessed as willing to adapt their behaviour in the best interests of the child. Contrastingly, if the customs, cultures, associated practices and laws of the receiving country or area may put the child in danger (either in childhood or later) then serious consideration should be given as to whether the placement is wise or safe and again highlights the importance of local collaboration when conducting assessments to ensure that any inclination that the child would be at risk of harm is picked up by the local social worker. The risk of potential bias from the local social worker culturally, religiously or nationally should also be taken into consideration.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office issues and regularly updates their guidance on Foreign Travel Advice<sup>19</sup> which details the local laws and customs in every country. This includes various levels of tolerance to people in the LGBTQ+ community, and other laws to be aware of that a child that is a UK resident/national might be unused to or which might put a child in danger, however it is not exhaustive. Reviewing the information provided in this service does not replace the necessary collaboration between the two countries which should serve to highlight these customs and practices on the side of the local social worker, and the UK local authority identifying where these might differ, seem "unusual" or in the worst case – cause harm to the child.

This section highlights just a few examples for consideration in relation to vulnerabilities that should be accounted for when conducting assessments. However, each vulnerability will be country specific and other challenges not explored here – such as race, language and accent – may also be factors that social workers will need to assess as to whether the children may have difficulty in the country or local area.

#### Religion

The child's wishes are incredibly important here and there are a range of nuances that carers and assessing social workers should be made aware of. For example, carers overseas may practice their religion differently to the child's experience, or indeed the carers may hold an entirely different religion to that of the child, if the child practices a religion at all. There are often cases where the child has biological parents with two different religions. When conducting an assessment on the father's family, they will often be asked if they would be

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<sup>19</sup> Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office – Foreign Travel advice [online] [accessed 14/08/2020] <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

prepared to talk to the child about the mother's religion, celebrate some of the corresponding festivals and holidays and generally assess their willingness to explore the other religion as part of the child's identity. They may refuse as they do not want to feel as if they are compromising their own beliefs and this may be used to make a judgement on the preparedness of the family to support and encourage the maintenance of all aspects of the child's identity, even if the child does not have much or any memory of practicing a religion previously.

#### Gender Identity and Sexuality

Consideration should be given with regards to the country's attitudes and laws towards gender. For example, if the country has a particularly large gender equality gap, how might this impact on a female child's opportunities in the medium and long term? Particularly, does a child's gender inhibit their access to education? What is the country's attitude to gender? Are there local variations? However, unless it is an institutional barrier that prevents girls from obtaining education, the family's attitudes towards gender equality should also be closely assessed. For example, an assessment might determine that none of the female children in the family that is being assessed have accessed education beyond a certain age, in which case there may be concerns that a female child placed in their care would also not obtain a sufficient level of education.

There is a chance that the child/young person may be of an age where they are exploring their sexuality or may have made some difficult decisions and admissions in relation to this. In this case, consideration would need to be given to the receiving country's views and acceptance of members of the LGBTQ+ community and whether the child's safety or access to support might be compromised due to their sexuality. Particularly, the acceptance and preparedness of the prospective carers towards caring for an LGBTQ+ child should be assessed.

There is a difficulty with younger children, in particular, who might not yet have an understanding of their sexuality or gender identity. As such, assumptions should not be made about the child's likely sexuality and/or gender identity. Similarly, it should not be assumed that if the family views are such that they are generally unsupportive of LGBTQ+ rights, that the carers would react negatively or be unsupportive if the child ended up coming out as LGBTQ+. It is recognised that this is something that is not often explored closely and that there are very delicate intricacies around striking a balance between ensuring the child is safe and able to express their identity freely, whilst not disregarding a potential suitable carer for a child who may be able to provide them with a loving, stable home based on assumptions that may never materialise.

#### Risk of Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage.

A thorough assessment should identify if there are any risks of female genital mutilation and/or forced marriage. If there is a possibility of these risks, the placement should not go ahead. These risks can be identified through the prevalence of FGM/forced marriage in the local area, the acceptance of FGM/forced marriage within the family, and the actual historical or existing practice of FGM/forced marriage within the family. Assessing the risk of FGM or force marriage can be complex and social workers may wish to seek advice from the Forced Marriage Unit.

## Challenge 4: Immigration

At an early stage, advice should be sought about the child's immigration status and travel documents. If the child understands the implications of their immigration status on their nationality rights, travel etc. then they should be consulted. It is important to ensure that the child will have a permanent status to reside in the country where they are placed before the placement is completed. If the child is a foreign-national who also has an entitlement to British citizenship or might return to the UK - for example, if the placement breaks down - ensure that the child will be able to re-enter the UK. The immigration status of the carer also needs to be considered, as well as if the carer needs to sponsor the child for them to obtain the right to permanently reside in the country of placement. This should again be considered with reference to the scenario of placement breakdown, and what this might mean for the child's immigration status. Similarly, if the child's immigration status is contingent on them being in care, will this mean that upon turning 18, they will no longer have right to remain in the country and is there an agreement in place for them to return to the UK in this scenario?

### Case Study – Recording Immigration Status and Consulting Overseas Authority

*Whilst this example is an incoming case to the UK, the challenges expressed are ones that can be experienced in all international kinship care placements.*

A 13-year-old Iraqi national child from the USA was placed with an adult cousin in the UK by the local authority children's services in the USA. The local authority was unaware of UK children's laws and did not consult the UK local authority, nor did it obtain any sort of visa or immigration status for the child. The placement broke down and the child ended up in care in the UK. The child could not return to the USA, as the child did not have permanent residency there, and the UK local authority struggled to obtain assessments on extended family in Iraq.

Specific consideration should also now be given to placing British children in European Union (EU) member states and the impact that the UK's departure from the EU may have on their immigration status in both the immediate and long term.

In some countries, complications in obtaining residence permits can mean that the placement must be approached through inter-country adoption rather than as a kinship placement. The Department for Education is the Central Authority for England under the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

Methods of obtaining, recognising and recording immigration status

Obtaining and recording this type of information can have its own challenges when working to build rapport with children and their families. Social workers may feel that asking for proof of citizenship or immigration status could undermine trust-building, as the families may become suspicious of the social workers' motive. Transparency is usually a good policy and families may appreciate and be reassured by professionals' sincere and open approach. It can be explained to the families that the primary purpose of knowing their nationality, citizenship or immigration status, along with other information shared, is to understand their resources, strengths and challenges unique to them, so that appropriate advice and support can be provided to ensure their child's safety and welfare.



### **Case Study – The importance of accurately recording citizenship, and mirroring orders.**

*Whilst this example is an incoming case to the UK, the challenges expressed are ones that can be experienced in all international kinship care placements.*

Immigration Enforcement identified a 14-year-old Canadian national, ethnic Turkish child who was living with his maternal grandmother who had British citizenship. The child had been living with the grandmother for 6 years with no visa and no leave to remain. The grandmother had a guardianship document issued by a Turkish local court but no other legal parental status with respect to the child. The child's mother had sent the child to the grandmother when the child's mother had fallen ill and feared she would not live much longer. The mother eventually recovered and wanted the child to return to Canada to live with her, her new husband and the child's half sibling. The child identified as British and did not wish to return and the maternal grandmother did not want the child to return to Canada. The child threatened to run away and children's social care in the UK became involved when the child disappeared for five days. Despite the mother, the social worker, and even the immigration worker all talking with the child about his lack of status in the UK, he refused to return to Canada.

### **Case Study – The importance of cross-border cooperation**

A Care Order was granted to a UK local authority for a 13-year-old boy and his siblings. The boy's father, who had not previously been involved in his upbringing, was willing to care for him in Jamaica, although his younger siblings remained in the UK. The father, a Jamaican national, was positively assessed, and a comprehensive relocation plan including post-placement support was made. This included financial support for a bigger property, towards legal fees to regularise the boy's status in country, and towards additional educational support and family counselling.

The placement began well but after around 18 months, the post-placement support worker contacted the British High Commission (BHC) Kingston and reported concerns that the father could not cope with the boy's challenging behaviour and the placement was breaking down. The BHC Kingston recommended engaging Jamaican social services to support the father, as the UK LA's period of supervision had expired and they did not want any further involvement. Jamaican social services put additional support measures in place but the young man's behaviour escalated to include substance misuse, criminality, going missing, sleeping rough, and risk of exploitation. He moved between the homes of different family members and did not experience any meaningful stability. The UK LA's funding was spent by the father on other things and the boy's legal status was never secured in Jamaica. Without status, social services and the courts will not take him into care in Jamaica and will not provide any further support services. They are considering deportation procedures against him, back to the UK.



Professional practice on recording citizenship may vary depending on individual social worker's values and organisational culture, as there is no statutory policy guidance to mandate local authorities to collect such data. For example, social workers may resort to obtaining such information verbally from family members while others may request factual evidence such as travel documentation or a birth certificate.

Employing a tool such as a genogram interactively as part of the assessment process may offer a creative solution in collecting such personal and contentious information without provoking suspicions or anxieties. Fluidity of dialogue and participative approach whilst drawing a genogram / family tree together can be perceived as less intrusive and oppressive in ascertaining the family relationship and exploring their identity.

### **Challenge 5: Managing Contact**

Consideration should be given with regards to how contact between the child and the child's existing family and friends network is managed. What will the impact be on the child's development and welfare if they are unable to maintain close relationships with family members in the UK? A good transition plan should indicate who the child should continue to maintain contact with, in what manner this should happen, and how frequently this can occur. This may even go into the detail of what time it is appropriate for this contact to take place with reference to challenges around time differences.

Consideration should also be given with regards to how contact is managed if the parents of the child choose to visit the country where the child is placed. This will be dependent on the circumstances through which the child came to be in the UK care system. Consideration should also be given as to whether this contact should be supervised, which will again be dependent on the parents' existing relationship with the child. Similarly, it may be beneficial to consider virtual contact supervision if there are family members in a different country to the child who contact them on a regular basis. This can be a useful tool as it can be damaging or upsetting for a child if they pick up on discord and conflict, and this service can minimise such exposure. If it is determined that supervised contact is necessary (whether that is in person or virtually) agreement will also have to be made as to how this will be paid for, how long it will continue and for how long it will be paid for after the placement is made.

## Glossary

**Brussels IIA** - The Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003 concerning jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility, 2003. EU Legislation which covers all EU member states, excluding Denmark.

**Cafcass** - Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service. Cafcass represents children in family court cases in England and independently advises the family courts about what is safe for children and in their best interests. This can be in relation to care proceedings, divorce or separation scenarios or adoption.<sup>20</sup>

**Children and Families Across Borders - CFAB** – CFAB is the only UK charity with an inter-country social work team. CFAB carries out case services in the UK and abroad referred by local authorities, statutory agencies, charities and individual members of the public, as well as partners in the International Social Service network, of which CFAB is the only UK member.<sup>21</sup>

**Family Group Conference** – This is a family-led process which enables all possible actors to determine what they consider to be the best long-term plan and to make decisions for a child at risk. This can involve family members from overseas and the children in question usually participate as well. This will be conducted with the support of a qualified family group conference coordinator who is independent to the family.

**Full assessment or Kinship Care Assessment** – For the purposes of this document, a full assessment or Kinship Care Assessment can refer to all complete assessments of a prospective kinship carer. This is separate to an initial screening assessment (below) as this does not provide a complete assessment of the carer’s suitability to care for the child in question. Alternatives which may be used by UK local authorities are connected persons assessment, parental assessment, and special guardianship assessment.

**1996 Hague Convention** – Hague Convention on Parental Responsibility and Protection of Children. Covers all EU member states as well as the following contracting states: Albania, Armenia, Australia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Georgia, Guyana, Honduras, Lesotho, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay. Where a child is habitually resident in an EU Member State, and both instruments apply, Brussels IIA takes priority over the 1996 Hague Convention until the end of the transition period.

**International Child Abduction Contact Unit – ICACU** - ICACU is the Central Authority for Brussels IIA (in England and Wales) and for the 1996 Hague Convention in England. The ICACU can make a request for co-operation (via the form linked in Annex C) to another country and can facilitate the collection and exchange of information if the country is party to the legislation just listed.

**Initial Screening Assessment** – This is often referred to as viability assessment, but for the purposes of this document we refer to this as an initial screening assessment to differentiate and make clear that this is very much a pre-cursor to a full assessment. The initial screening

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<sup>20</sup> Cafcass website : <https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/about-cafcass/>

<sup>21</sup> Children and Families Across Borders <http://cfab.org.uk/>

assessment should not replace a full assessment and overall viability should not be gauged from this as there are limitations to the amount of information that can be obtained through these means. As before, the initial screening assessment is used to determine the potential carer's basic condition and ability to care as a way to rule them out, or to confirm that they are potentially suitable to proceed with a full assessment.

**International Social Service – ISS<sup>22</sup>** - ISS is a global network of more than 120 countries worldwide which assist children and families confronted with complex social problems as a result of migration. The network works together to facilitate the reunion of children with their families whilst promoting child protection and welfare.

**Kinship Carer** - This is a person who looks after a child who cannot safely live with their parents. It can be a family member, such as Grandparents, Aunts, or older siblings, or it could also be a family friend.

**LGBTQ+** - LGBTQ+ is an inclusive term which stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer, with + capturing other terms such as asexual, pansexual and Intersex.

**Life Story Work** – Life story work is a concept which has been around for over 50 years. It is well established in the UK and Australia and is written into adoption legislation in the UK. It is considered a national minimum standard for a social worker to undertake Life Story Work with a child in care and complete a life story book to be shared with adoptive parents. Whilst this isn't mandated for kinship care placements, it is good practice to conduct this work with Looked After Children who might struggle with their sense of identity. A Words and Picture storyboard may also prove helpful.

**Looked After Children** – this document makes reference to Looked After Children. This term is defined by the Children Act 1989 and refers to a child which is in the care of a local authority. Looked After Children fall into four main groups:

- “Children who are accommodated under voluntary agreement with their parents (section 20);
- Children who are the subject of a care order (section 31) or interim care order (section 38);
- Children who are the subject of emergency orders for their protection (section 44 and 46);
- Children who are compulsorily accommodated. This includes children remanded to the local authority or subject to a criminal justice supervision order with a residence requirement (section 21)”<sup>23</sup>

**Special Guardianship Order – SGO** – This is a private law made under the Children Act 1989 which provides for a legally secure placement for a child who otherwise cannot live with their birth parents.

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<sup>22</sup> International Social Service General Secretariat Webpage : <https://www.iss-ssi.org/index.php/en/>

<sup>23</sup> Royal College of Nursing (2019) *Looked After Children* [online] <https://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/children-and-young-people/looked-after-children#:~:text=Looked%20after%20children%201%20Statistics.%20in%20England%20there,4%20Named%20nurse%20for%20looked%20after%20children.%20>

## Annex A: Useful Organisations and Services

### Organisations

This section lists the relevant organisations and/or teams which should be contacted at varying stages of the process for considering placing a child with family members overseas.

#### Children and Families across Borders (CFAB)

Children and Families Across Borders (CFAB - formerly International Social Service UK) is the UK arm of the international ISS network. CFAB works to ensure the identification, care and protection of all children separated across borders - including children in care, unaccompanied children and the victims of trafficking - where possible reuniting them with their families in the UK and overseas.

#### Address

Victoria Charity Centre  
11 Belgrave Road  
London  
SW1V 1RB

Advice Line: 020 7735 8941

Email: [info@cfab.org.uk](mailto:info@cfab.org.uk)

Website: [www.cfab.org.uk](http://www.cfab.org.uk)

#### Consulates

The DfE guidance for “Working with foreign authorities: child protection cases and care orders” details the support that consulates may be able to provide for local authorities and social workers. Namely, consular sections may be able to provide the following services:

- “provide contact with the social services in the home country;
- explain applicable child protection laws in the context of the customs and laws of the family’s home country;
- help search for relatives;
- obtain official documents;
- make travel arrangements; and
- in some cases, offer translation and interpretation services.

Where appropriate, social workers will wish to consider contacting the relevant Embassy when a child with links to a foreign country becomes the subject of a child protection plan, has required immediate protection or has become the subject of care proceedings<sup>24</sup>.”

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<sup>24</sup>Department for Education (2014), Working with foreign authorities: child protection cases and care orders, [Pg. 10] [Online]  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/351145/Working\\_with\\_Foreign\\_Authorities\\_-\\_Child\\_Protection\\_and\\_Court\\_Orders.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/351145/Working_with_Foreign_Authorities_-_Child_Protection_and_Court_Orders.pdf)

To contact the consular sections of the relevant embassy, please refer to the Government official list of Foreign embassies in the UK<sup>25</sup>.

### **Family Rights Group (FRG)**

Family Rights Group works with parents in England and Wales whose children are in need, at risk or are in the care system and with members of the wider family who are raising children unable to remain at home. The charity advises parents, grandparents, other relatives and friends about their rights and options when social workers or courts make decisions about their children's welfare. They are also the recognised experts in the social work practice of family group conference and provide training to new co-ordinators.

#### **Address**

Family Rights Group  
Second Floor  
The Print House  
18 Ashwin Street  
London E8 3DL

Advice Tel: 0808 801 0366

Textphone: please dial 18001 and then 0808 801 0366

Admin Tel: 020 7923 2628 (no advice available on this number)

Office Fax: 020 7923 2683

Email: [office@frg.org.uk](mailto:office@frg.org.uk)

### **IAC – The Centre for Adoption**

IAC – The Centre for Adoption is the UK's only dedicated intercountry adoption charity. IAC's Outbound Permanence Advice Service supports professionals in Local Authorities in England who are considering placing a Looked After Child with connected carers overseas through Convention Adoption, Non-Convention Adoption (Outbound Intercountry Adoptions), Special Guardianship, and other permanent orders.

#### **Address**

22 Union Street  
Barnet  
EN5 4HZ

Main Office: 020 8449 2562 (not Advice Line)

Email: [outbound@icacentre.org.uk](mailto:outbound@icacentre.org.uk)

### **International Child Abduction Contact Unit (ICACU)**

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<sup>25</sup> Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (2020) *Foreign Embassies in the UK* [online] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foreign-embassies-in-the-uk>

The ICACU is the operational Central Authority for England for the 1996 Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children ('the 1996 Hague Convention'). ICACU may be able to assist in making a request for co-operation to another country, and for the exchange of information if that country is party to the 1996 Hague Convention.

### **Address**

Post Point 0.53  
102 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9AJ

DX: Post Point 0.53  
Official Solicitor & Public Trustee  
DX 152384  
Westminster 8  
Phone (International Child Abduction Unit): 0203 681 2756  
E-mail: **For new requests and general enquiries only:** [ICACU@ospt.gov.uk](mailto:ICACU@ospt.gov.uk)

ICACU Request for Cooperation form -  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-child-abduction-unit-request-for-co-operation-form>

### **Services**

#### **Social Service Checks/ Police Record Checks**

Local authorities should contact CFAB, ICACU or the relevant country's consulate in order to facilitate social service checks and police record checks. The relevant body or organisation will then get in touch with its overseas counterparts to obtain social service record checks and or/police checks in those countries. However, before obtaining these checks and *before* making a referral, consent from the family member abroad will need to be obtained in advance.

#### **Assessments**

Requests for cooperation with local professionals abroad to obtain assessments of family members can be made to CFAB or ICACU. This includes requests for joint or split assessments.

#### **Post-placement visits**

CFAB can facilitate a welfare visit/s to confirm the health, safety, routine and emotional development of a child that has been placed internationally. This can include an assessment of the child's routine, any changes to Family Situation & Composition the maintenance of contact with Family & Significant Others, the Child's Behavioural & Emotional Development and any further Analysis & Recommendations.

#### **Family Group Conference**

Family Rights Group (FRG) are the subject matter experts in the UK with regards to advice<sup>26</sup> on family group conferences and training for new facilitators. They can also provide accreditation for existing FGC facilitators. Generally, family group conferences are facilitated by local authorities.

### **Virtual Contact Supervision**

CFAB offers a virtual contact supervision service with particular expertise in handling cross-cultural, multi-lingual and cross-border situations. The service is supervised by a qualified social worker who speaks the relevant language<sup>27</sup> as well as English. Referrals for this service are accepted from parents, solicitors and other professionals including Guardians, Family Court Advisors, and social workers.

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<sup>26</sup> Family Rights Group, *What is a family group conference?* [online]  
[https://www.frg.org.uk/images/Advice\\_Sheets/3-what-is-a-family-group-conference.pdf](https://www.frg.org.uk/images/Advice_Sheets/3-what-is-a-family-group-conference.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> Available in English, Romanian, Japanese, German, Yoruba



## Annex B: Initial Friends & Family Viability Assessment

Developed by Family Rights Group in partnership with an expert working group in 2017.  
For the full guide visit: <https://www.frg.org.uk/>

### Details of child/ren needing to be placed

NAME	DOB	CURRENTLY PLACED WITH

### Summary of each child's needs:

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NAME	DOB	RELATIONSHIP TO SUBJECT CHILD/REN

### Potential Carer and household members

#### Address and Contact Details of Potential Carer (Redact before Disclosure)

Address-line 1	
Address-line 2	
Address-Postcode	
Home Telephone No.	
Mobile No.	
Work Telephone No.	
Email address	

### Nationality/Immigration Status (please confirm proof of both) and Ethnic Origin:

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**Religion (please state whether the family are practicing or non- practicing):**

**Criminal Convictions:**

Does the potential carer/s or any member of their household have any criminal convictions/cautions/warning?  Yes  No

If you have answered **yes** please state what these convictions/cautions /warnings are and when they were committed:

Has PNC been completed? Y/N

*Please note any false or misleading information should be taken seriously and potential carers should be informed that as part of a full kinship assessment any adult member of the household, potentially including teenagers over the age of 16 years will be required to undergo full Enhanced DBS checks.*

**Health:**

Has the potential carer or any member of their family had any relevant health issues, for example:

- Alcohol/Drug dependency
- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Arthritis
- Self Harm/Suicidal Ideation
- Any other health/mental health conditions or concerns- Please explain:

Does the potential carer or any member of their household consider themselves to be disabled?  Yes  No

If yes, please explain:

**Relationship Status:**

Married/Co-habiting. Please state for how long.

Single

If the potential carer is in a relationship - how long have they been in a relationship?

How often do the couple see each other and how much contact will their partner have with the child/ren in question?

Divorced

Please state for how long, and the date the divorce was finalised.

Separated

Please state for how long.

Does the potential carer have intentions of reunifying with their partner?

Yes  No

If so, what are the proposed timescales? What were the reasons for separation, and have these been resolved?

**Previous Relationships:**

Please include details of significant previous relationships where the potential carer's ex-partner may pose a risk to the child or be a source of support to the potential carer.

**Occupation:**

Does the potential carer/s work?  Yes  No

Full time

Part time

Contractual

Casual

Please state how many hours the potential carer/s work.

Does the potential carer/s intend to work in the future?

Yes

No

If the child in question is below the age of 12 years, how are the potential carers proposing to manage child care arrangements?

Will the potential carers require childcare support?  Yes

No

Are there other family members available to support them with childcare?

Yes  No

What type of support is envisaged? Who is responsible for applying for the support requested?

How many hours of support per week is required?

**Accommodation:**

Please indicate the type of accommodation the potential carer is currently living in.

Ownership

Owned/Mortgaged       Rented       Other

Please indicate the Local Authority OR Housing Association responsible for the potential carer's housing:

Does the potential carer have a secure tenancy?  Yes  No

If no, what can be done to secure the potential carer's accommodation?

Type of Property

Flat       House       Maisonette       Studio

Number of Bedrooms

1       2       3       4       5

Will the child/ren in question have their own bedroom?  Yes  No

If not, please state clearly what the sleeping arrangements will be and whether the child is agreeing to this arrangement:

In the short-term?

In the long-term?

Permanently?

Is housing and space a concern? What support is available to the potential carer to address this issue and who is responsible for progressing this?

**Health and Safety of the home:**

In the anticipation of a full Health and Safety Check of the property, does the home appear safe and suitable for a child/ren to be placed?  Yes  No

Please state any obvious health and safety concerns which need to be resolved prior to a placement commencing:

If there are pets in the home please describe and explain any considerations required in light of a potential placement:

Does anyone in the household smoke?  Yes  No

If yes, how will this be managed to minimise the impact on the children?

**Assessment of the potential carer's motivation and ability to care for this specific child/ren:**

**Please comment on the following:**

- *The potential carer's motivation for caring for this specific child/ren?*
- *The potential carer's previous child care experience? What is the carer's aptitude to provide care?*
- *The potential carer's financial circumstances- can they financially support the child/ren? Would they require financial assistance?*
- *Are there any regular visitors to the home who would either compromise or support the potential carer's ability to care for this specific child? What is the potential carer's view of, and proposals for managing or making use of this?*
- *What is the potential carer's understanding of the possible length of placement? Are they prepared to care for the child permanently, until they are 18 years old? Does the potential carer have any understanding about the different permanency options available (Long Term Fostering, Residence Order, Special Guardianship and Adoption)? What information has been provided to the potential carer in relation to this different options?*



**Assessment of the relationship between the child/ren and the potential carer, broad family dynamics and issues around managing contact:**

- *The relationship between the child/ren and the potential carer. Is there an established relationship? How often have or do they see each other? What is the quality of the time spent together?*
- *What do the potential carer's know about the specific needs of the child/ren? Can they describe the child's personality, likes and dislikes? Does the child have any disability or specific learning needs?*
- *What is the relationship like between the potential carer and the child's parents/extended family members? Is there currently any conflict with the child's parents? What does the potential carer think the challenges will be if they become the child's primary carer in relation to working with the child's parent/s?*
- *How will the potential carer manage contact between the child and their parent/s? Do they envisage any issues or problems managing contact in the future? What support do they feel they may need in relation to this?*
- *What are the potential carer's views, and the views of the other members of the household, about the impact that caring for the child will have on their life?*

**Child/ren's Wishes, Feelings and Views about the potential placement:**

## **Risk Assessment**

**For the Assessor:** Have you discussed the concerns that have led to the local authority's involvement with the potential carer? Yes No

What was the potential carer's response to this information? What was the potential carer's understanding of the presenting concerns of the Local Authority, and were they aware of these concerns prior to the Local Authority's involvement?

What is your assessment of the carer's ability to protect the child/ren from future risk of harm?

How do they intend to safeguard and meet the needs for the child/ren should they be placed in their care?

What support/services are required from the Local Authority, community or extended family network to assist the potential carer to safeguard and care for the child/ren?

**Social Worker Recommendations:**

In your professional opinion, does this potential carer offer a realistic option for the care of the child/ren in question?

Strengths of the Potential Placement:

Limitations of the Potential Placement and Identified Areas of Support:

Any areas of disagreement between assessor and potential carer/s should be noted here:

Signature:

Date:

**Manager's Decision:**

Signature:

Date:

Thank you for completing this assessment.

## Documents to be sent or given to the potential carer

Prior to the assessment, a letter should have been sent to the potential carer explaining the process and an information leaflet should have been sent to the potential carer with this letter or provided to them in person. The potential carer should also have been given information about sources of independent advice.

On completion of the assessment, a signed copy of this assessment needs to be sent to the potential carer/s with a covering letter explaining the outcome of the viability assessment, whether further assessment is recommended and providing information to the potential carer in respect of challenging the content and/or outcome if they desire to do so.

## Checklist of information to be sent or provided to the potential carer

	<b>Information</b>	<b>Date</b>
Letter prior to assessment explaining the process	yes/no	_____
Information leaflet explaining the process	yes/no	_____
Information about sources of independent advice	yes/no	_____
<b>On completion of the assessment</b>		
Signed copy of the assessment	yes/no	_____
Cover letter explaining that the potential carer can correct any factually incorrect information and add their comments and challenge the content or outcome, if they wish	yes/no	_____

## Annex C: The International Child Abduction Contact Unit (ICACU) Request for Co-operation Form



Official Solicitor

International Child Abduction &  
Contact Unit (ICACU)

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### ICACU REQUEST FOR CO-OPERATION FORM

You should read the '**ICACU guide to completing the request for co-operation form**' before completing this form.

Please provide as much information as possible when completing this form but bear in mind that information should only be provided if relevant to your request. If you do not have the exact information (for example, a full address) you should give as much detail as is known to you (for example, the town in the other country where the family is from).

Please do not leave any part of the form blank:

- if the information requested is not known to you insert '**N/K**' ('not known');
- if the information is not relevant to your request for co-operation insert '**N/R**' ('not relevant');

If you do not have the exact information you should consider if it may be available in your records or in any court papers, or whether it is practical for you to ask family members in this country for the information.

The form should be typed. Please double check the spelling of foreign names and addresses. If more than one spelling is in use, please provide all alternative spellings.

**Section 1: Is the request for co-operation under the Brussels IIA Regulation and/or the 1996 Hague Convention?**

**Section 1(a):**

Please indicate by putting a cross in the appropriate box whether the request for co-operation is under the Brussels IIA Regulation or the 1996 Hague Convention or both	
Brussels IIA Regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
1996 Hague Convention	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brussels IIA Regulation <u>and</u> the 1996 Hague Convention	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Section 1(b):**

<p>If the request for co-operation is under both the Brussels IIA Regulation and the 1996 Hague Convention, please explain why below and put a cross in the appropriate boxes in <u>both</u> section 2 and section 3</p>

**Section 2: Request for co-operation under the Brussels IIA Regulation**

Please indicate by putting a cross in the appropriate box, which Article(s) your request is under	
Article 54	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article 55	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article 56	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Section 3: Request for co-operation under the 1996 Hague Convention**

Please indicate by putting a cross in the appropriate box, which Article(s) your request is under	
Article 30	<input type="checkbox"/>

Article 31	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Article 32	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Article 33	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Article 34	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Article 35	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Article 36	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**IMPORTANT**

In **all** cases where a request for co-operation is made under the **1996 Hague Convention** you **must** consider Article 37 before contacting the ICACU. You should then confirm by putting a cross in the box below that you are satisfied that the ICACU should request the information that you are asking for and that it should transmit to the requested central authority the information you have provided to the ICACU in support of your request.

If there are any personal details you do not wish to be disclosed by the foreign authorities to family members in the other country then please indicate this in a covering letter and explain why, and the ICACU will draw this to the attention of the overseas Central Authority.

However you should be aware that once a request for co-operation has been made the ICACU has no control over how any information will be used or to whom it may be communicated.

Article 37	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>I confirm that I have considered Article 37 of the 1996 Hague Convention</b>
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**Section 4: Details of child(ren) about whom the request for co-operation is being made**

**Child 1**

Surname:					
First Name:					
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy):		<input type="checkbox"/>	Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female
Identity card / Passport No:					
Nationality:					
Dual nationality:					
Dual nationality Passport No:					
All persons with parental responsibility <u>and</u> their relationship to the child:					



Country of residence:	
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**Child 2**

Surname:				
First Name				
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy):			Male	Female
Identity card / Passport No:				
Nationality:				
Dual nationality:				
Dual Nationality Passport No:				
All persons with parental responsibility <u>and</u> their relationship to the child:				
Country of residence:				

**Child 3**

Surname:				
First Name				
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy):			Male	Female
Identity card / Passport No:				
Nationality:				
Dual nationality:				
Dual nationality Passport No:				
All persons with parental responsibility <u>and</u> their relationship to the child:				
Country of residence:				

**Child 4**

Surname:				
First Name				
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy):			Male	Female
Identity card / Passport No:				
Nationality:				
Dual nationality:				
Dual nationality Passport No:				

All persons with parental responsibility <u>and</u> their relationship to the child:	
Country of residence:	

### Child 5

Surname:				
First Name				
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy):			Male	Female
Identity card / Passport No:				
Nationality:				
Dual nationality:				
Dual nationality Passport No:				
All persons with parental responsibility <u>and</u> their relationship to the child:				
Country of residence:				

### Child 6

Surname:				
First Name				
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy):			Male	Female
Identity card / Passport No:				
Nationality:				
Dual nationality:				
Dual nationality Passport No:				
All persons with parental responsibility <u>and</u> their relationship to the child:				
Country of residence:				

## Section 5: Details of parent(s) and/or step-parents (give information about all parents and /or step-parents for each relevant child)

### Parent 1

Surname:				
First Name:				
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy):			Male	Female

Full address:						
Telephone No:						
Mobile No:						
Email:						
Identity card / Passport No:						
Nationality:						
Dual nationality:						
Dual nationality Passport No:						
Married:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unmarried partner:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civil partner:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Civil partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children:						
Country of residence:						

**Parent 2**

Surname:						
First Name:						
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy):					Male	Female
Full address:						
Telephone No:						
Mobile No:						
Email:						
Identity card / Passport No:						
Nationality:						
Dual nationality:						
Dual nationality Passport No:						
Married:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unmarried partner:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civil partner:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Civil partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children:						
Country of residence:						

**Parent 3**

Surname:						
First Name:						
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy):				Male		Female
Full address:						
Telephone No:						
Mobile No:						
Email:						
Identity card / Passport No:						
Nationality:						
Dual nationality:						
Dual nationality Passport No:						
Married:	Yes		No		Spouse	
Unmarried partner:	Yes		No		Partner	
Civil partner:	Yes		No		Civil partner	
Children:						
Country of residence:						

#### Parent 4

Surname:						
First Name:						
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy):				Male		Female
Full address:						
Telephone No:						
Mobile No:						
Email:						
Identity card / Passport No:						
Nationality:						
Dual nationality:						
Dual nationality Passport No:						
Married:	Yes		No		Spouse	
Unmarried partner:	Yes		No		Partner	

Civil partner:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Civil partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children:	<input type="text"/>					
Country of residence:	<input type="text"/>					

### Step-parent 1

Surname:	<input type="text"/>					
First Name:	<input type="text"/>					
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full address:	<input type="text"/>					
Telephone No:	<input type="text"/>					
Mobile No:	<input type="text"/>					
Email:	<input type="text"/>					
Identity card / Passport No:	<input type="text"/>					
Nationality:	<input type="text"/>					
Dual nationality:	<input type="text"/>					
Dual nationality Passport No:	<input type="text"/>					
Married:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unmarried partner:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civil partner:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Civil partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Step-children:	<input type="text"/>					
Country of residence:	<input type="text"/>					

### Step-parent 2

Surname:	<input type="text"/>					
First Name:	<input type="text"/>					
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full address:	<input type="text"/>					
Telephone No:	<input type="text"/>					
Mobile No:	<input type="text"/>					
Email:	<input type="text"/>					
Identity card / Passport No:	<input type="text"/>					
Nationality:	<input type="text"/>					

Dual nationality: Dual nationality Passport No:						
Married:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unmarried partner:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civil partner:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Civil partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Step-children:						
Country of residence:						

### Step-parent 3

Surname:						
First Name:						
Date of Birth(dd/mm/yyyy) :	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full address:						
Telephone No:						
Mobile No:						
Email:						
Identity card / Passport No:						
Nationality:						
Dual nationality: Dual nationality Passport No:						
Married:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unmarried partner:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civil partner:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Civil partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Step-children:						
Country of residence:						

### Step-parent 4

Surname:						
First Name:						
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full address:						
Telephone No:						

Mobile No:						
Email:						
Identity card / Passport No:						
Nationality:						
Dual nationality: Dual nationality Passport No:						
Married:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unmarried partner:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civil partner:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Civil partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Step-children:						
Country of residence:						

#### Section 6: Details of requesting public authority

Requesting public authority:						
Surname of contact person:						
First Name of contact person:						
Contact Address:						
Postcode:						
Telephone No:						
Mobile Telephone No:						
email (a <b>CJSM</b> or <b>GCSX</b> email address if possible):						

#### Details of the public authority's legal adviser (if different from the named contact above)

Name of solicitor:						
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Contact Address:			
DX No:			
Telephone No:			
Fax No:			
email (a <b>CJSM</b> or <b>GCSX</b> email address if possible):			
Please indicate by putting a cross in one of the boxes below whether you wish the ICACU to correspond directly with you or with the solicitor. Where there are court proceedings the ICACU would prefer to correspond with the solicitor.			
Please correspond with me	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please correspond with the solicitor	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Section 7: Details of any other relevant person (for example, a proposed kinship carer)**

**Person 1**

Surname:			
First Name:			
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy):		Male	Female
Full address:			
Telephone No:			
Mobile No:			
Email:			
Relationship to child(ren):			
Identity card / Passport No:			
Nationality:			
Dual nationality:			
Dual nationality Passport No:			
Country of residence:			

**Person 2**

Surname:	
First Name:	

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy):			Male		Female
Full address:					
Telephone No:					
Mobile No:					
Email:					
Relationship to child(ren):					
Identity card / Passport No:					
Nationality:					
Dual nationality:					
Dual nationality Passport No:					
Country of residence:					

**Person 3**

Surname:					
First Name:					
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy):			Male		Female
Full address:					
Telephone No:					
Mobile No:					
Email:					
Relationship to child(ren):					
Identity card / Passport No:					
Nationality:					
Dual nationality:					
Dual nationality Passport No:					
Country of residence:					

**Person 4**

Surname:					
First Name:					
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy):			Male		Female
Full address:					
Telephone No:					
Mobile No:					

Email:	
Relationship to child(ren):	
Identity card / Passport No:	
Nationality:	
Dual nationality:	
Dual nationality Passport No:	
Country of residence:	

**Section 8: Request for co-operation where the exact whereabouts of the child(ren) or other relevant person(s) are not known**

<p>Known information about the location of the child(ren) or other relevant persons including any last known address in the other country:  <u>Please provide as much information as possible</u></p>	
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Details of persons who might be able to supply additional information relating to the location of the child(ren) or other relevant persons:

**Section 9: Details of civil court proceedings that have concluded or are in progress**

In England and Wales (you should attach any relevant court orders: please note that the copy order(s) should be stamped with the court seal).

Outside England and Wales (please provide copies of any relevant court orders).

If there are proceedings in progress either in or outside England and Wales please give the date of next hearing if known or any other relevant information about the court timetable.

### **Section 10: Background case summary**

You should already have provided the full name and date of birth of relevant children and any relevant adults. Please now provide a concise background summary of the circumstances leading to the request for co-operation.

### **Section 11: The request for co-operation**

Please set out below precisely what information and / or assistance you are asking for. If this is needed by a specific date please identify the date and say why it would be helpful to have the information / assistance by that date. If you are making a request for co-operation under Article 55(c) of the Regulation (because the court is considering making an Article 15 request) or under Article 31(a) of the 1996 Hague Convention (because an authority is considering making an Article 8 or 9 request) please include details here.

**Section 12: Reasons in support of the request for co-operation**

Please explain your factual and/or legal reasons for the request for co-operation.

**Section 13: Contact with the other country**

If you have already had contact with the authorities in the other country please provide details of that contact identifying any relevant professionals in the other country and giving their contact details.

**Section 14: Documents**

**You should only provide those copy documents which are necessary and directly relevant to the request for co-operation. If there are court proceedings in progress do not provide the full court bundle.**

List of documents attached including translations. If providing translations of documents (of foreign documents into English or of English documents into the language of the other country) you must also provide a copy of the document in the original language.

**Section 15: Other relevant information**



Please provide any other information you consider relevant

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**Section 16: Conclusion**

Signature	
Full name of person signing on behalf of the requesting public authority (block capitals)	
Date:	

The completed form can be sent to the ICACU by **email or post** (see notes for guidance for details) but email is preferred. If you send it by **email** it should be identified in the subject line as a new request with the words: **“New request for co-operation”**.

## Annex D: Example Transition Plan/Partnership Agreement

<b>Child's name:</b>	Saeed Khan	
<b>Child's date of birth:</b>	17/12/2015	
<b>Date agreement completed:</b>	09/02/2019	
<b>Purpose of the Partnership Agreement:</b>		
To ensure the family understand the expectations of the Local Authority in respect of Saeed's needs during the interim placement and his contact arrangements.		
<b>Action agreed:</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Who is responsible</b>	<b>Timescales</b>
1. Nadia Bagum (maternal aunt) to help the family manage Saeed's behaviours supported by the family, using the strategies given by the foster carer.	Nadia & Family	For the assessment period as required by telephone
2. To arrange a private language tutor for Saeed to access Bengali lessons at least 5 days per week.	Family	Until Saeed starts school
3. To take Saeed to his arranged assessments at the local hospital in Seylhet with Dr Jabeen.		
4. Register Saeed at local school in Seylhet and purchase his uniform, books and relevant items.	Family	As and when required
5. Not to hit/slap/hurt or shout at Saeed as a way to control his behaviour.	Family	Within 1 month
6. Inform Adam Hill (SW) immediately if Saeed has any accident/illness/injury, and seek medical treatment as appropriate: <a href="mailto:adam.hill@xxx.gov.uk">adam.hill@xxx.gov.uk</a> <b>0044 207 333 4444</b> or <b>0044 7464 989 252</b> .	Family	Indefinitely
7. Contact Adam Hill immediately if at any stage you feel you are not able to manage the care of Saeed.	Family	

<p>8. No negative discussions about other family members in front of Saeed.</p> <p>9. Do not expose Saeed to adult conversations or inappropriate situations.</p> <p>10. Family must use the following to explain to Saeed why he is unable to return to the care of his Ruma:  <i>Your mum loves you very much and she tried to give you a nice home but was unable to look after you. The people responsible for you thought it was best you come and live with us (Grandparents) so you could stay with your family who love you.</i>  <i>She will always be your mum and we will make sure you stay in touch with your mum and the rest of your family.</i></p> <p>11. Family must send Adam Hill photographs/videos of Saeed at least every other day. These shall include photographs of Saeed on his own, as well as within a group. These photographs shall be shared with Ruma and the Guardian</p> <p>12. Family must allow Saeed to speak with Adam Hill on these specific times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24/01/19 at 2pm (9am UK)</li> <li>• 30/01/19 at 2pm (9am UK)</li> <li>• 06/02/19 at 2pm (9am UK)</li> <li>• 13/02/19 at 2pm (9am UK)</li> <li>• 20/02/19 at 2pm (9am UK)</li> <li>• 06/03/19 at 2pm (9am UK)</li> <li>• 20/03/19 at 2pm (9am UK)</li> <li>• 03/04/19 at 2pm (9am UK)</li> <li>• 17/04/19 at 2pm (9am UK)</li> </ul> <p>13. Family to allow Saeed to speak with Ruma on these specific times (for the avoidance of doubt the family to not allow Ruma to contact Saeed at any other time unless with the agreement of Adam):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30/01/19 at 2:30pm (9:30am UK)</li> <li>• 13/02/19 at 2:30pm (9:30am UK)</li> <li>• 06/03/19 at 2:30pm (9:30am UK)</li> </ul>	<p>Everyone</p> <p>Everyone</p> <p>Family</p> <p>Family</p> <p>Family</p> <p>Family</p> <p>Adams / Family</p>	<p>Until the outcome of the final hearing (approximately 3 months)</p> <p>Indefinitely</p> <p>Indefinitely</p> <p>Indefinitely</p> <p>During the assessment period of 3 months and throughout Saeed's life</p> <p>During the assessment period of 3 months</p> <p>As shown</p>
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<b>Name of party to the agreement:</b>		<b>Amir Khan (Father)</b>
<b>Signed:</b>		
<b>Name of party to the agreement:</b>		<b>Rumana Khan (PGM)</b>
<b>Signed:</b>		
<b>Name of party to the agreement:</b>		<b>Hamid Khan (PGF)</b>
<b>Signed:</b>		
<b>Name of party to the agreement:</b>		<b>Nadia Begum (mat aunt)</b>
<b>Signed:</b>		
<b>Name of party to the agreement on behalf of XXX Council:</b>		<b>Adam Hill</b>
<b>Signed:</b>		
<b>A copy of this agreement will be provided to the following agencies</b>	<b>All legal representatives and the court</b>	

