



## Harrow LSCB Checklist

### Safeguarding Children from Abroad

Title: Safeguarding Children from abroad Checklist		
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## **Safeguarding Children from Abroad Checklist**

Many children travel to the UK each day legally and with appropriate care. However, some children travel illegally to the UK without adequate documentation, in the care of adults who cannot exercise parental responsibility for them, or, they are forced to travel to the UK for domestic servitude, benefit fraud, or sexual exploitation. Safeguarding children from abroad can raise issues of private fostering, inter country adoption or trafficking. These children and young people might present as unaccompanied asylum seekers.

Safeguarding concerns and anomalies may not be apparent at first presentation. Any child coming to the UK alone, or without parents or legally approved guardians, should initially be treated as a 'child in need'; assessments of their situation will then determine the way forward. Child protection concerns for a child coming from abroad will require the same response as you would give to any UK resident child. For initial assessments, the following guidance should be considered as the assessment framework is used.

### ***Private fostering***

An assessment should begin, including consideration of issues of parental consent for the fostering, and consent for medical procedures/ immigration status:

[http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/files/2010/procedures/5.\\_cisc.doc](http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/files/2010/procedures/5._cisc.doc)

Chapter 5.37

[www.baaf.org.uk/info/private-fostering](http://www.baaf.org.uk/info/private-fostering)

[www.privatefostering.org.uk](http://www.privatefostering.org.uk)

UK Modern Slavery Act 2015

[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/contents/enacted](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/contents/enacted)

## ***Inter-country adoption***

Not all inter-country adoptions made overseas are legal in the UK. There are Hague Convention countries whose adoptions are recognised in the UK; some Designated countries whose adoptions are recognised in the UK, and some whose are not. The lists of those countries can be found on the links below. You will need to check the specific status of each country.

Adoptions from some Designated countries need to be agreed and assessed in the UK. Adoptions from non-Designated countries also need to be agreed and assessed in the UK. The Local Authority has a duty to carry out the assessment.

The adopters commit an offence if not accompanying the child to the UK. Again there could be issues of parental consent in the adoption, or money exchanged, which is illegal. Police can be involved.

[http://www.icacentre.org.uk/adoption\\_support/adopters/advice\\_line](http://www.icacentre.org.uk/adoption_support/adopters/advice_line)

[www.dfe.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/intercountryadoption](http://www.dfe.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/intercountryadoption)

[www.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net)

## ***Trafficking***

In assessing a child or young person, who may have been trafficked into the UK, swiftly arranging a strategy meeting is vital, as trafficked children can go missing very quickly. Safety at the time of presentation must be urgently considered.

[http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/files/2010/trafficking/london\\_safeguarding\\_trafficked\\_children\\_guidance\\_mar\\_2011.pdf](http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/files/2010/trafficking/london_safeguarding_trafficked_children_guidance_mar_2011.pdf)

If you have concerns, follow the guidance in the procedures and seek advice:

**Private Fostering Team, Harrow Council - 0208 736 6971**

**Inter Country Adoption Team, Harrow Council - 0208 736 6971**

**UASC & Leaving Care Team, Harrow Council - 0208 420 9687-  
P.Rothnie (Customer & Social Worker Support Officer)**

**The Golden Number (MASH - Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) -  
0208 901 2690 - Out of Hours: 0208 424 0999**

<http://www.humantraffickingfoundation.org/>

**Blackfriars Settlement, 1 Rushworth Street, London SE1 0RP  
020 3773 2040**

Whenever any professional identifies a child who they believe has recently moved to this country, they should see the child alone and ascertain his/her wishes and feelings (dependent upon age and understanding)

**These checks can reasonably be made in all situations:**

- Confirmation of the child's identity and immigration status
- Confirmation of the carer's relationship with the child and their immigration status
- Passports, visas, immigration documents, birth certificates, adoption documents
- Travel to the UK, from country of origin, and through what other countries.
- Other agencies for registration (GP, school etc) and arrangements for education and health care.