



# **Guidance for Children Travelling Abroad with Complex Medical Needs**

Date of this Document – 20.12.2017

Date of Review – 20.12.2020

Version - 2

JDFI – Level 2 – Health (CCGs, LTHT & LCH)

Level 1 – all other agencies

## Contents

---

1. Introduction
2. Definitions
3. Responsibilities
4. Risk Assessments
- 5 Children Travelling Abroad with Complex Medical Needs – Workflow process

### 1. Introduction

---

**What is this guidance?** This guidance provides all agencies with a clearly defined procedure, addressing the management of situations where parents wish to take children with complex medical needs abroad, and where travel abroad may place the child at significant risk.

**Why do we need this guidance?** This guidance provides all agencies with clear instructions about how to manage situations, when travelling abroad may put a child at significant risk, and where safeguarding concerns may or may not pre-exist.

**What is the purpose of this guidance?** All agencies need to understand their responsibilities in the management of situations where parents wish to take children with complex medical needs abroad, and where travel abroad may place the child at significant risk.

**Who is this guidance aimed at?** This guidance is aimed at practitioners working with families whereby there is a child or children with complex needs, either regularly or occasionally, and there is an intention to travel abroad. These practitioners will come from a wide range of agencies both statutory and non-statutory.

The key contact for comments about this policy is: [lscb@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:lscb@leeds.gov.uk)

### 2. Definitions

---

When this guidance speaks of children with complex medical needs there is no agreed definition among policymakers or practitioners. This term, however, includes children who are disabled, children with special educational needs and children with 'life-limiting' or 'life-threatening' conditions.

### **3. Responsibilities**

---

All agencies must work in accordance with the Leeds Safeguarding Multi-Agency Policies and Procedures, and local guidelines, in relation to any safeguarding concerns they have.

LSCB (Policies and Procedures Subgroup) takes responsibility for this guidance and approves its use.

When information about the intention of the family to travel abroad, including the child/ren with complex needs, is brought to the attention of any particular competent agency it is the responsibility of that agency to identify and inform the lead clinician for the child. The lead clinician must then assess the risk involved.

### **4. Risk Assessments**

---

All agencies involved in a child's care must consider the implications of any forthcoming travel and discuss this with the family and other key practitioners. A risk assessment for the proposed journey must be made and clearly documented in the child's records, stating the views and wishes of the family.

If the outcome of the risk assessment clearly identifies that there is a significant risk of harm to the child/ren as a result of the proposed journey abroad, and the family will not cancel the plans for travel with the child/ren, then immediate contact with the Front Door Safeguarding Hub must be made to Children Social Work Services indicating that the journey places the child/ren at the risk of significant harm.

## 5. Children Travelling Abroad with Complex Medical Needs – Workflow Process

---

