Chart 4 - asking a central authority in another state to locate a child

Child suffering (or likely to suffer) harm moved from local authority area

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Apply local authority's usual missing child procedure

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Evidence found that child has been moved to another contracting state.

→ If child's whereabouts are known and he/she is in serious danger, the local authority must inform the other state immediately about nature of the harm and measures that were being proposed to protect child.

← If help is needed to locate the child, the recommended route is to send the relevant information to support the tracing request via the English Central Authority to the central authority in the other state. This should include details of child's circumstances and reasons for request. May include request for information or action if the child is found.

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Other state's central authority must provide assistance in discovering the child's whereabouts

→ Central authority in other state unable to trace child → Local authority considers whether any further action can be taken

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Authorities in other state successful in tracing child

→ **Establish child's habitual residence (see Annex)**

→ If child is habitually resident in England, consider whether to exercise protective measures in England or to ask the state where the child is present to assume jurisdiction (See Annex)

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If child is habitually resident in another state, local authority may ask that state's Central Authority for a report on child's circumstances or for protective measures to be taken.