

One Minute Guide to Kinship Care

What is Kinship Care?

Kinship care is when a child lives full-time or most of the time with a relative or close family friend, usually because their parents are not able to care for them. Grandparents are the most common kinship carers, but older siblings, aunts, uncles, and people who know the child well can also take on the role. There are different types of kinship care, with informal arrangements, Child Arrangements Orders, Special Guardianship, Family and Friends foster care and Private Fostering¹ [one-minute-guide-private-fostering.pdf \(trixonline.co.uk\)](#)

You might see kinship carers referred to as 'family and friends carers' or 'connected people'

Kinship care arrangements come about because children are separated from their parents or their parents are unable to provide the care and support the child needs. Common reasons for children being in kinship care include parental drug or alcohol abuse, neglect, domestic violence or the death of a parent. The kinship arrangement may be permanent or temporary. Sometimes the arrangement is made by the local authority but more often it is arranged within the family network only. Sometimes these arrangements are identified through family group conferences [One Minute Guide Family Group Conferences - CoL \(trixonline.co.uk\)](#).

What will social workers do?

Children, where possible, should remain within their family/personal networks. Families can provide joy, love and excellent quality of care. Sometimes families have found that there is a cost and sacrifice to caring for others. Social workers will connect kinship carers/prospective carers to local resources and ensure that the family is well supported, this will include City Advice at Toynbee Hall to ensure benefits are maximised. Email: city.advice@toynbeehall.org.uk

Where can I find further information:

[Championing Kinship Care: The National Kinship Care Strategy](#)

[The Strategy Helpfully Summarised](#)

[Research - Kinship - The kinship care charity](#)

[Film: First day of Forever: Special Guardianship](#)

[Helping families Helping children - Family Rights Group \(frg.org.uk\)](#)

What do we offer in the City:

1. Family group conferences to identify family support and potential carers
2. Viability assessments of prospective kinship carers children.duty@cityoflondon.gov.uk

¹ [What is kinship care? - Kinship Compass](#)

3. Connected carer (reg 24)/special guardianship assessments – spot purchased via our commissioned provider Achieving For Children. commissioning@cityoflondon.gov.uk
4. Fostering panel spot purchased via our commissioned provider Achieving for Children
5. Kinship care training and support spot purchased via our commissioned provider Achieving for Children
6. Speak with the manager and/or the Head of Service for further information, via children.duty@cityoflondon.gov.uk

What financial support is offered in the City:

[The Cost of Loving](#) sets out what families say about caring for their loved kinship children

1. A financial assessment will be undertaken, taking into account the child and prospective kinship carer's needs.
2. 2 hours of legal advice at legal aid rates will be given to those seeking a Child Arrangements Order or a Special Guardianship Order.
3. Those who are special guardians will receive an allowance akin to that of a foster carer
4. The financial offer for special guardians will be reviewed on an annual basis
5. Support for children with special guardians will be equivalent to that of care leavers will be provided after the child turns 18 until they are 25 if so wished
6. A child in need assessment will be offered, including a review of finances for those in private fostering – support, if needed would be covered via s17 Children Act funding.
7. Where child arrangements orders are sought within care proceedings, a financial assessment will take place and consequent financial offer will be made on a bespoke basis.

Extended educational support for kinship children:

The virtual school head and deputy virtual school head are responsible for boosting and extended educational and training support for kinship children.

The Head of Service for Children's Social Care and Early help is the Kinship Ambassador for the City of London. Do ask any questions as needed.

Statutory paid leave for kinship carers in employment equal to adoption leave:

The Head of Service has requested that the City of London adopt this recommendation, via Human Resources and via the Parent Carer Staff Equality Forum.

Greater support for children, to help them heal and thrive:

Kinship Children and their carers have access to the Systemic Family Clinic

Social workers/early help worker can connect kinship children and carers with local resources to help them thrive. **Contact:** Children.Duty@cityoflondon.gov.uk