



Kinship Carers Liverpool

Our Services - A Guide for Professionals working with Kinship Families

December 2020 - Leaflet 2

What is Kinship Care?

Kinship Care is the full- time care provided by grandparents, aunts, uncles or family friends, as the biological parents are no longer able to look after their child/ren. This may be due to drug/alcohol abuse, mental health problems, custodial sentences or bereavement.

Kinship carers are also referred to as 'family and friends foster carers', 'connected people' or 'relative carers'. There are many different types of kinship care arrangements. They may be private or informal arrangements, or they may be formalised through kinship foster care, Child Arrangements Orders or Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs).

Who are Kinship Carers Liverpool?

Kinship Carers Liverpool is a registered charity based at Ellergreen Community Centre, Norris Green, Liverpool. Established in 1986, we raise awareness of the multiple issues facing kinship carers and campaign for change. We work directly with kinship families of all types (private/informal and those with legal orders), offering bespoke support directly to kin carers and kin children. We work inclusively with families to meet their individual needs, regardless of their legal status or where they are in their kinship journey – be it just starting to care for a child or having been a kinship family for many years.

Our aims are:

- To raise the profile of kinship care in the city: building awareness amongst all service providers about kinship care and the needs of kinship families
- To work collaboratively and in partnership with service providers across the city, including Liverpool City Council Children's Services teams to support effective service delivery
- To influence service design and delivery of all types of local services (social work; education; health; legal advice) which are providing support to kinship families - to better meet their specific needs in providing stable and strong placements for kin children

- To publicise the range of resources and support provided by Kinship Carers Liverpool - encouraging kin carers/prospective kin carers and service providers to access our new website and wide range of resources and to make contact directly with our team if they require further advice or support
- To offer a warm welcome to all kin carers and kin children/young people to our full programme of activities and social events – so that they can meet informally with others with similar family experiences

Kinship Carers Liverpool offers:

- Training/Awareness raising activities and resources (including CPD sessions) for professionals (social workers, legal advice providers, family support agencies), in relation to the profile and needs of kinship/friends and family care locally – and the unique challenges facing these carers in raising their kin kids
- Confidential information, advice and signposting for family members who are considering becoming a full-time carer of a child or young person in their family – which may involve care/legal proceedings – i.e. prospective friends and family kinship carers
- Information about the range of legal orders related to kinship care.
- Information and advice for anyone who is already caring for a friend's/ relative's child on a full-time basis – including formal and informal/private arrangements.
- Support to kinship families in navigating local education and health services, as well as specialist support for specific challenges they face on a daily basis
- A full programme of support groups, activities and kinship care skills training or kin carers and kin kids: including kids school holiday activities, peer support groups and intergenerational sessions

For further information please visit www.kinshipcarersliverpool.co.uk where you will find a range of further guidance, information leaflets and resources related to:

- Our Activities Programme for Kinship Carers, Kids & Families
- Legal Advice Services – Local Support
- Information & Links about Legal Orders related to Kinship Care
- Money & Benefits Advice & Links
- Early Help & Wellbeing Information
- Schools and Learning Resources & Links
- Signposting to national Kinship Websites & Guidance

Contact Details

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Kinship Carers Liverpool



www.kinshipcarersliverpool.co.uk

**The Baring
Foundation**



Steve Morgan
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