



Championing Kinship Care

The National Kinship Care Strategy 2023

Happy, Safe & Loved, Thriving



Key points

- Family First culture
- Children who grow up in kinship care have better outcomes than children who grow up in other types of non-parental care.
- Launching a kinship financial allowance, paid at the same rate as the fostering allowance
- Expanding the Virtual School Head's role to promote the education of children in kinship care.
- Renaming the Adoption Support Fund, to the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund
- Producing government guidance for employers on how kinship carers can be supported at work.
- Introducing a kinship leave and pay entitlement for Department for Education staff
- Establishing a training, information and advice offer that all kinship carers will have access to www.Kinship.org
- Sustaining the delivery of peer support groups across England for all kinship carers



Empowering Kinship Families

- Creating a new Kinship Care Ambassador role, to work with local authorities and kinship carers to raise standards and share best practice.
- Improving the availability of advocacy services for children in kinship care by updating guidance and standards.
- Establishing the National Kinship Care Advisory Board and extending the Department for Education's Kinship Carer Reference Group.
- Partnering with Foundations - the What Works Centre for Children & Families and the sector to work towards every family being offered high quality family group conferences at pre-proceedings stage.
- Using digital innovation to help social workers have a greater understanding of kinship families



Help Kinship Families be understood



- Improving the visibility of kinship carers through a new definition of kinship care that will be used in statutory guidance.
- Publishing an updated version of the 2011 Family and Friends Care: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities. This will be called Kinship Care: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities and will clarify how local authorities should support kinship families.
- Creating trust between kinship carers and practitioners by improving social worker training and developing a knowledge and skills statement for family help lead practitioners.
- Confirming that Ofsted are updating their inspector training and guidance, so kinship care is well embedded in inspection practice.
- Agreeing work with the Law Commission to review legal orders and statuses for kinship carers and understanding how we can both simplify and streamline these.



Next steps

To benchmark the kinship services within Slough Children First against the strategy and develop an action plan to address any developments needed.