

a guide to...



Kinship Care

Social Wellbeing & Housing





What is Kinship Care?

Kinship Care is when close relatives of a child, for example, grandparents, aunts, uncles, sisters, brothers, or step-parents – offer to care for a child when they are no longer able to live with their birth parents. Kinship Care is a way of ensuring children can remain in contact with their wider family.

Why is Kinship Care encouraged?

Children and Family Services recognise the importance of children being cared for by people they know and trust. We acknowledge that the commitment from Kinship Carers can provide a child with security, love and comfort within their own family environment and as a result, children who cannot live with their birth parents are given every opportunity to thrive and be happy in familiar surroundings.



How can I receive help from Children's Services?

Children and Family Services are committed to enabling children to remain within their own families and communities wherever this is possible and can offer support to carers to enable them to meet the assessed needs of the child.

To find out whether you, as Kinship Carers, are eligible for help, Children and Family Services will need to complete an assessment; the reason for this is to establish what, if any, services need to be provided.

Children and Family Services have a duty to ensure that any child we are providing services for is safe and well cared for, so we will discuss with you how you are going to look after the child.

Children and Family Services will ask your permission to carry out all the necessary checks – such as police checks, which we are legally obliged to make when someone is looking after a child who is not their own.

If you are in financial need because of caring for the child, you can request a financial assessment. Your financial circumstances will determine your eligibility for financial assistance from Children and Family Services.

What help can Children and Family Services provide for Kinship Carers?

WE CAN PROVIDE:

- A support worker to visit you, or keep in touch to give you advice, information and support
- Assistance in requesting other services for the child, for example, from Education or from Health Services
- Financial assistance, if you are eligible after completion of a Financial Assessment
- Opportunities to attend training events and meetings with others who are caring for children
- Support Groups where you can meet other Kinship Carers

As a Kinship Carer, what legal rights do I have for the child?

The child's birth parent(s) retain legal responsibility for the child.

The child's birth parent(s) will be asked to make an agreement with you about how the day to day responsibilities for the child are to be carried out, for example, dental and medical appointments and who will attend school meetings etc.

In most Kinship Care arrangements it is important for the child to keep in contact with his/her birth parent(s) and other family members. Children and Family Services will support Kinship Carers to promote this contact.

**If you want to know
more, contact:**

Children and Family Services

The Corn Exchange
High Street
Newport NP20 1FR

Tel: 01633 656 656

If you would like this information in another language or format, please contact the Social Wellbeing & Housing Public Information Officer on:

Tel: 01633 656 656

email: swhinfo@newport.gov.uk

web: www.newport.gov.uk/socialcare

