



# KINSHIP CARE

CHILDREN CARED FOR BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

A definitive guide to responsibilities...legal rights...financial rights...support...



**3RD**  
EDITION

“ I would never say to her that she is different cause I have tried to bring her up in a normal and loving environment as much as possible but the truth is she is different, she doesn't live in a happy home with her mum and dad, she lives with her gran. ”

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## Statement from Mentor

This resource has been produced so that kinship carers can gain a clearer outline of their roles and responsibilities when they become a carer of a close relative or friend's child. This guide will aim to inform the kinship carer of each step of the process that they will be involved in, what support they may receive from their Local Authority and their financial and legal rights.

While presenting this information for kinship carers Mentor would like to stress that these details should be used as a guide only, as this is the best information that Mentor can provide and it is therefore not legally binding. Each kinship carer case is individual to the needs of the child, the parents and the carer and so it has been impossible to account for all scenarios.

Mentor would urge kinship carers to contact their Local Authority to confirm that all details apply locally.

We are delighted to announce that an online version of this guide is now available at [www.kinship.scot](http://www.kinship.scot), the new Scottish National Kinship Care Website. Please visit this site for any updates to the guide as well as information on events, policy changes, news, financial and legal support as well links to support services.

## Emergency numbers

If you need advice or information quickly contact:

**ParentLine**  
SCOTLAND 08000 28 22 33

**CHILDREN 1ST PARENT  
LINE**

**0800 028 2233**

For help with emotional and practical issues



**KINSHIP CARE HELPLINE**  
**0808 800 0006**

For help with financial and legal issues



**0131 334 8512**

For help with training, support and resources

Please also find a list of support agencies and kinship care support groups in your area in Section 5 of this guide.



# Important Information for You:

Please use this space to fill in key information that relates to you or your child. This will hopefully make it easier for you to have all your information together in one place.

Status of child/ren (looked after etc): .....

Relevant section of Local Authority (i.e. S25): .....

Responsible Local Authority: .....

Social work office: .....

Social worker: .....

Social Work Team Leader: .....

Social worker contact: .....

Social Care Direct No (Emergency social work): .....

GIRFEC – Named Person: .....

Named Person contact: .....

Welfare Rights Officer contact: .....

CAB Office/ CAS contact: .....

Support Agencies in your area & contact details: .....

.....

.....



## Kinship Carers

**Are you thinking about or are you currently caring full time for a close relative or friend's child?**

**Are you confused, worried, scared, and unsure about what is happening?**

**Do you understand the process that you are about to or are currently going through?**

**Do you know that there is support out there for you and the child you care for?**

### **You are not alone...**

Thousands of people care for children because their birth parents are unable to do so. These people are grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and even close family friends and these are known as kinship carers. Are you one of these?

## Kinship Carers continued

You may have chosen to become a carer already or you are in the process of becoming one but your main priority is the best interests of the child/ren. This can sometimes blind you to the roles, responsibilities and pressures that you will have as a carer.

Alternatively a child who is a close relative may be looked after by a foster carer or is placed in a residential home and you wish to take over the care of that child. What do you do?

There may be much confusion around the area of kinship care with many Local Authorities dealing with carers differently. There are differences in financial payments, assessment processes and support packages which in turn may leave kinship carers very confused.

This guide has been set out to help kinship carers have a better understanding of what is involved in taking on the care of a child. This guide cannot be precise as it cannot cover all the differences, however it will:

- Inform you of the new changes that the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 has introduced
- Tell you what your Local Authority's responsibilities are
- Tell you what your responsibilities are
- Inform you of your legal rights
- Inform you of your financial rights
- Detail the support services that are out there to help you
- Explain complicated legal terms
- Describe case studies to present the experiences of carers and the children in kinship care arrangements

This guide is divided into easy chapters so that you can find the section that relates to you. To help you find the right section, it will help to know what kind of kinship carer you are – please see following page.

Once you have answered this question, please go to the appropriate colour coded section.

## How to Use This Guide



Start by going to the next section of this document as it clarifies all the changes in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. Once you've completed that, go to page 26, 'What kind of kinship carer are you?'; which asks the questions...

Are you a carer for:

- 1) A "looked after" child
- 2) A "non looked after" child
- 3) A child whose care has been agreed with the parents



Once you have identified what type of carer you are then please go to your appropriate section. Each section is colour coded.



Within your selected section you will find:

- A step by step process of the support you should receive from your Local Authority
- Information on your legal rights
- Information on benefits you may receive
- Case studies



There is then a section which will provide you with important information on areas such as legal aid and Children's Hearings.



Finally there is a section listing national support agencies and kinship care support groups in your area that you can contact to help you with any concerns that you have.

## SECTION 1: **DEVELOPMENTS**



I live with my big sister I don't know  
where my mummy went.

she makes sure I am ok, she feeds me,  
buys me clothes but she makes me go to  
the dentist and I do not like the dentist.  
My room is covered in teddy bears and I  
give them cuddles when I feel sad.

I am sad when I think about my mummy but  
my sister always tries to cheer me up.  
Ice cream is great and I cover it all with  
strawberry sauce yummmmy.

Girl aged 6

# The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

## Important Legal changes in Kinship Care

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 was introduced in March 2014 with provisions on kinship care coming in to force from 1st April 2016. It is a key part of the Scottish Government's strategy for making Scotland the best place in the world to grow up. The Act places a duty on local authorities to ensure assistance is made available to kinship carers and the children in their care who are applying for or currently have a Kinship Care Order. The key areas of importance of this Act are Part 4, Part 5, Part 6, Part 9, Part 10, Part 11, Part 12 and Part 13 and these will be discussed in detail throughout this guide.

Kinship carers of "looked after" children will also find legislation specific to their needs in the Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009.

## Part 4

### NAMED PERSON

As part of this Act, children from birth to 18 years will have a Named Person. The Named Person will be available to listen, advise and help a child or young person and their family, providing direct support or helping them to access other services. They can help families address their concerns early and prevent them becoming more serious.

## Part 5

### CHILD'S PLAN

The plan has been designed to help all staff working with children and families in any organisation in the community think about the needs of a child or young person. The Act ensures a Child's Plan will be available for children who require extra support that is not generally available to address a child or young person's needs and improve their wellbeing. Every plan should include and record information about the child's wellbeing needs including the views of the child and their parents, details of action to be taken, the service(s) that will provide the support and how they will be provided, the aims and outcomes of the plan, and when the plan should be reviewed.

For up to date policy developments please visit  
[www.kinship.scot](http://www.kinship.scot)

# The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

## continued

### Part 6

#### EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

The Act has introduced new early learning and childcare entitlements. Since August 2014, two year olds, from the point they are looked after, or are under a Kinship Care Order or are placed with a parent appointed guardian, are eligible for 600 hours a year (approx 16 hours per week during term time) of free early learning and childcare. This provision is also available to all 3 and 4 years olds in order to improve outcomes for children, especially those who are more vulnerable or disadvantaged and support parents to work, train or study, especially those who need routes into sustainable employment and out of poverty.

### Part 9

#### CORPORATE PARENTING

The Act puts Corporate Parenting on a statutory footing and introduces a new framework of duties and responsibilities on a variety of organisations included as corporate parents. These duties require all corporate parents to collaborate with each other to promote the wellbeing of looked after children and care leavers in their care and enable them to achieve the best outcomes.

### Part 10

#### AFTERCARE

This part of the Act is designed to extend the Aftercare support, guidance and advice provided by the Local Authority for care leavers. All young people who were “looked after” regardless of their placement type on or after their 16th birthday are equally entitled to Aftercare services up to their 26th birthday.

### Part 11

#### CONTINUING CARE

This part of the Act describes a duty on local authorities to provide support and assistance to young people who are “looked after” in kinship care (and those in foster and residential care) beyond their 16th birthday, giving them a choice to remain with their family/carers whom they have bonds with until they reach age 21 or until a time when they are more prepared to live independently. It is expected that kinship carers will want to provide this long-term care but kinship carers also have an entitlement to decide not to provide a Continuing Care arrangement.



# The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

## continued

### Part 12

#### SERVICES IN RELATION TO CHILDREN AT RISK OF BECOMING LOOKED AFTER

Part 12 places a duty on local authorities to provide appropriate and effective support services such as family group decision making and parenting support to children at risk of becoming looked after and their families, as well as vulnerable pregnant women and their families. The intention is to prevent children from entering the care system by providing opportunity for wider family involvement in the care for a child and is about keeping the family at the centre of decision making but provided with the right support when needed.

**Secondary legislation: the (Relevant Services in relation to Children at Risk of Becoming Looked After etc.) Order 2016** specifies these services as being family group decision-making services and parenting support services. It also specifies when these services will be provided.

### Part 13

#### SUPPORT FOR KINSHIP CARE

Part 13 specifies the types of court order that will be recognised as a Kinship Care Order (KCO) for the purpose of receiving kinship care assistance. It also places a duty on local authorities to ensure that assistance is made available to those who apply for, consider applying for or have obtained a Kinship Care Order regarding an eligible child.

Under Section 72(1) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 a Kinship Care Order means:

- a) an order under section 11(1) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 Act which gives to a qualifying person the right mentioned in section 2(1)(a) of that Act in relation to a child,
- (b) a residence order which has the effect that a child is to live with, or live predominantly with, a qualifying person, or
- (c) an order under section 11(1) of the 1995 Act appointing a qualifying person as a guardian of a child.

In short a kinship carer who has an order under Section 11 (1) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 for parental responsibilities and rights, residence or guardianship will be deemed to have a Kinship Care Order.

**Secondary legislation: The Kinship Care Assistance (Scotland) Order 2016** sets out what kinship care assistance is and how it is to be provided.

# Kinship Care Allowances

On 1st October 2015 an agreement between the Scottish Government and local authorities came into force to ensure the same payment of allowances between kinship carers and foster carers. This does not apply to all kinship carers but it does apply to:

- All kinship carers where the child is “looked after”
- Some kinship carers where the child is not looked after but has a Section 11 Order (now also known as a Kinship Care Order) and is or was
  - previously looked after
  - placed with involvement of the Local Authority
  - at risk of becoming looked after

Kinship carers covered by this agreement should receive an allowance at a minimum of the same rate as foster carers in their Local Authority.

Some kinship carers will be eligible for child related benefits which cover accommodation and maintenance. If a kinship carer receives any child related benefits such as Child Tax Credit then this may have an impact on their kinship allowances. This depends on how the Local Authority makes your payments. Please ask your Local Authority to confirm how they pay you and how that impacts on you.

However there are additional costs associated with caring for a child in kinship care such as (but not restricted to) increased travel costs related to family contact. A financial allowance is intended to help with these costs and this is not a top up of benefits. It is intended to ensure that eligible children who are the subjects of a Kinship Care Order are not disadvantaged compared to their peers.

Each Local Authority should publish a revised Kinship and Fostering Allowances Policy which should include key details of entitlements, eligibility criteria, how it will be assessed, where more information can be found, where complaints can be made and any other relevant information.

# GIRFEC: Getting it Right for Every Child

GIRFEC is the national approach in Scotland to improving outcomes and supporting the wellbeing of our children and young people by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) and carer(s) to work in partnership with the services that can help them.

## Named Person

All children from birth to the age of 18 years will have access to a Named Person. The Named Person will be available to listen, advise and help a child, young person and their family, providing direct support or helping them to access other services.

You do not have to use the services of a Named Person but organisations will have a legal duty to make a Named Person available, and the Named Person will respond to concerns for a child's wellbeing. They will usually be employed by the health board or Local Authority; they are not a social worker. Each responsible authority must publish details about how the Named Person service operates, how to contact a Named Person, and how to make a complaint relating to a Named Person.

The Named Person, can advise and provide information or support to the child, young person or parent/carer directly.

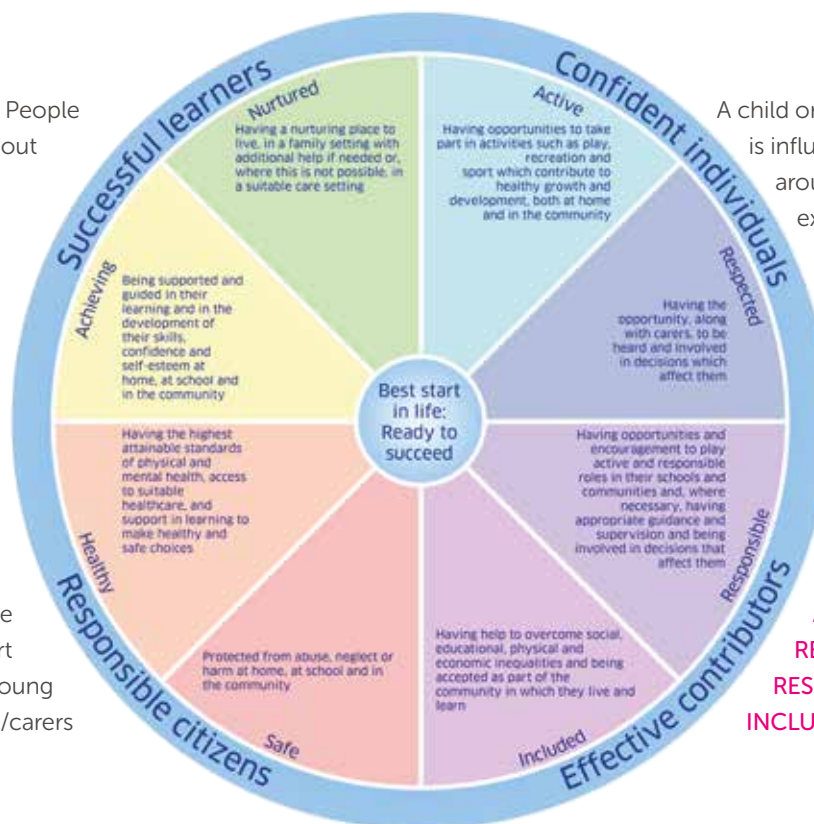
They can also help the child, young person or parent/carer to access support from other services if they need it. Where there are concerns over a child's wellbeing the Named Person can use the National Practice Model to assess, record and review. At all times the child, young person or parents/carers must be involved in the process. They must work together to find solutions and support. If a risk is identified the Named Person must take action to follow child protection procedures, speak to other providers and refer to the Children's Reporter where appropriate.

STAGE OF LIFE	NAMED PERSON
<b>Pre birth</b>	Midwife
<b>Birth – Pre-school</b>	Health Visitor
<b>Primary school</b>	Head teacher/Deputy head, Principal teacher
<b>Secondary school</b>	Head teacher/Deputy head, Principal teacher

# Wellbeing

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 is about improving the wellbeing of children and young people in Scotland. The Act is wide ranging and includes key parts of the Getting it right for every child approach, commonly known as GIRFEC.

Wellbeing sits at the heart of the GIRFEC approach and reflects the need to tailor the support and help that children, young people and their parents/carers are offered to support their wellbeing.



A child or young person's wellbeing is influenced by everything around them and the different experiences and needs they have at different times in their lives.

There are 8 wellbeing indicators also known as **SHANARRI**. They are:

**SAFE**  
**HEALTHY**  
**ACHIEVING**  
**NURTURED**  
**ACTIVE**  
**RESPECTED**  
**RESPONSIBLE**  
**INCLUDED**

To view this wheel further please visit [www.kinship.scot](http://www.kinship.scot)

## Free School Meals

From 5th January 2015 all primary children across P1-3 can access free school meals.

### Older Children

Your children can access free school meals if you are receiving:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit, and your income is less than £16,105
- Both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit and your income is under £6,420
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit
- If aged between 16 and 18 years old and receive any of these benefits in your own right, you can claim free school lunches

Some local authorities also provide free breakfast, fruit and or milk to some children they are responsible for. Please check with your local authority to see if your child is entitled to receive any of these.

## Free School Uniforms

Every Local Authority has an individual set of standards which qualifies you for free school uniforms. To apply you must fill in an application form and provide proof of benefits. The general benefits are:

- Income Support (IS) / Pension Credit / Universal Credit
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit, and your income is less than £16,105
- Both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit and your income is under £6,420

Please check with your local authority to see what they provide and who qualifies for help.

# Glossary

TERM OR PHRASE	ABBREVIATIONS IN FULL	MEANING
ASL	Additional Support for Learning	Refers to extra support available for children in school.
CAB	Citizens Advice Bureau	Independent local charities that are members of the Scottish Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux provide advice and information to people in need in over 200 locations.
Child's Plan		A Child's Plan will be available for children who require extra support that is not generally available to address a child or young person's needs and improve their wellbeing.
Children's Hearing or Children's Panel		Meetings that are held in front of a panel to provide help for children who may be having problems in their lives and may require compulsory measures of care.
CSO	Compulsory Supervision Order	<b>Section 83 Children's Hearing (Scotland) Act 2011</b> These are measures taken for the protection, guidance, treatment or control of a child. They may have conditions attached such as stating where the child should live, requiring contact with parents to be supervised or attendance at a school/family centre.
CPCC	Child Protection Case Conference	A meeting held following a child protection investigation which allows professionals involved to assess relevant information & plan to safeguard the child.
CPO	Child Protection Order	A short term emergency order granted by the Court which protects a child from an immediate risk of harm.
CSP	Co-ordinated Support Plan	A legal document that involves a variety of agencies to ensure child's support needs are met.
CYPA	Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014	A law which applies to a range of aspects of children's services in Scotland.
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions	A Government department responsible for welfare and employment issues (formerly the DSS).
FGC	Family Group Conferencing	Where all family members come together to find solutions for problems affecting the children in the family.
GIRFEC	Getting it Right for Every Child	GIRFEC is the national approach in Scotland to improving outcomes and supporting the wellbeing of our children and young people by offering the right help at the right time from the right people.

## Glossary continued

TERM OR PHRASE	ABBREVIATIONS IN FULL	MEANING
<b>GoR</b>	Grounds of Referral	<b>Section 67 Children (Scotland) Act 1995</b> These are the reasons why a child could be referred to a Children's Hearing. They include offences committed by the child, non school attendance and lack of parental care. The grounds of referral have to be accepted by the child and their parents and/or 'established' by the Sheriff.
<b>HMRC</b>	Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs	A Government department that collects and administers direct and indirect taxes and also pays and administers Child Benefit, Tax Credits and Child Trust Fund.
<b>IEP</b>	Individualised Educational Programme	A detailed programme highlighting child's needs, how they will be met and learning outcomes to be achieved.
<b>KC</b>	Kinship Carer	The Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009 defines a potential kinship carer as a person who is related to the child or who is known to the child and with whom the child has a pre-existing relationship. A Local Authority has the power to decide whether to approve such a relative or person as a kinship carer for the child.
<b>KCO</b>	Kinship Care Order	For the purposes of Part 13 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, a kinship carer who has an order under Section 11 (1) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 for parental responsibilities and rights, residence or guardianship will be deemed to have a Kinship Care Order.
<b>KFC</b>	Kinship Foster Carer	In England and Wales, kinship care is sometimes referred to as kinship foster care. Similarly, kinship carers are sometimes referred to as kinship foster carers.
<b>LA</b>	Local Authority	One of the 32 councils in Scotland.
<b>LAAC</b>	Looked After and Accommodated Children	A term sometimes used by local authorities and other organisations to describe children and young people looked after away from home.
<b>LAC</b>	Looked After Child	Where a child is looked after by the Local Authority either within or outwith the parental home.
<b>NP</b>	Named Person	An identified person who can provide advice, support or access to services for children from birth to 18 years and their parents/carers.
<b>NPM</b>	National Practice Model	A framework within GIRFEC that allows for assessment, analysis, action and review to identify outcomes for children.
<b>PFC</b>	Private Foster Carer	Where a child is looked after by a family member or friend. This is a private arrangement and the carer needs to register as a private foster carer.
<b>PLP</b>	Personalised Learning Plan	Sets out manageable aims and goals for a child to achieve specific to their developmental needs.

## Glossary continued

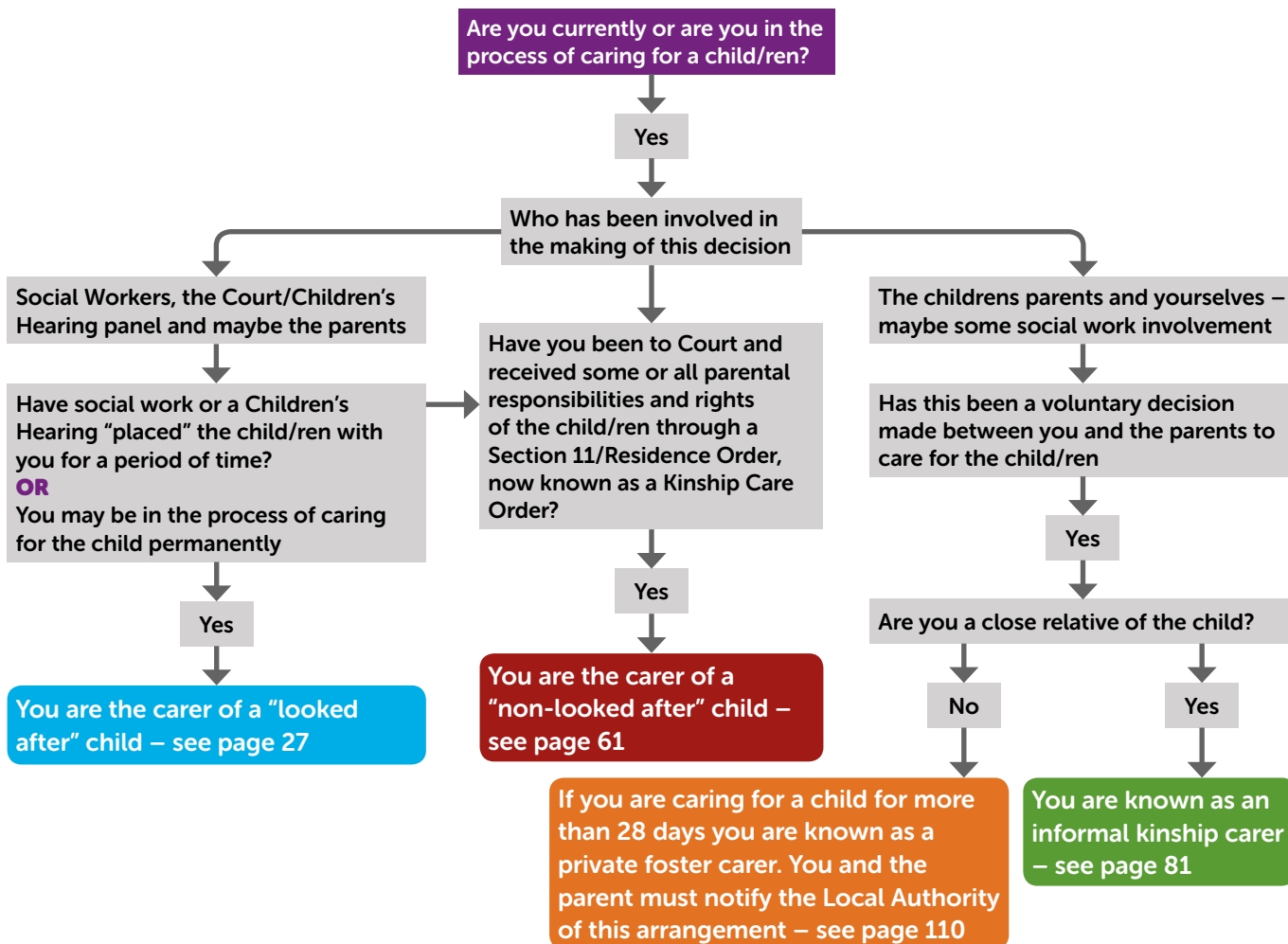
TERM OR PHRASE	ABBREVIATIONS IN FULL	MEANING
<b>PO</b>	Permanence Orders	An order granted by the Court allowing a Local Authority to determine a child's residence and those who are responsible for providing guidance to the child. This can move responsibilities and rights to the carers. It may also grant authority for a child to be adopted.
<b>PVG</b>	Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme	A scheme introduced by the Government to ensure that people doing "regulated" work or activities (which includes approved kinship carers) are suitable to do so. This is based on their offending history.
<b>Regs</b>	Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009	Regulations which are an addition to the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and Adoption & Children (Scotland) Act 2007.
<b>RO</b>	Residence Order	A Residence Order is an order from the Court to say who the child should live with. If this is granted through the Court parental responsibilities will be granted to that person. Also known as Section 11 Order.
<b>S11</b>	Section 11 of Children (Scotland) Act 1995	A section of this Act which describes Court orders specific to parental responsibilities and rights.
<b>S22</b>	Section 22 of Children (Scotland) Act 1995	This section imposes a duty on Local Authorities to provide a range of services to children who are "in need".
<b>S25</b>	Section 25 of Children (Scotland) Act 1995	This section imposes a duty on Local Authorities to provide accommodation for children and young people. They need parental consent to do so unless the parent is dead or cannot be found.
<b>S26A</b>	S26A of Children (Scotland) Act 1995	This section was introduced by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and explains the duty of providing Continuing Care to looked after young people.
<b>S29</b>	S29 of Children (Scotland) Act 1995	A section of the Act which details the support a Local Authority should provide to care leavers.
<b>S50</b>	Section 50 of Children Act 1975	This section gives power to a Local Authority to assist with the maintenance of a child where they are being cared for by someone other than the parent (does not include foster care).
<b>S80</b>	Section 80 of Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007	A section of this Act which explains the role of Permanence Orders.
<b>S110</b>	Section 110 of Adoption & Children (Scotland) Act 2007	This section details payments for kinship carers where the children have been placed under Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009.



## Glossary continued

TERM OR PHRASE	ABBREVIATIONS IN FULL	MEANING
<b>Safeguarder</b>		A person who has been appointed to undertake an assessment of the child's best interests by a Children's Hearing or Court.
<b>SGO</b>	Special Guardianship Order	SGO is an alternative legal status in England and Wales for non-parents who are caring for a child in a long-term, secure placement.
<b>SHANARRI</b>		Refers to the 8 indicators of wellbeing which focus professionals to see if a child is safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible & included.
<b>UC</b>	Universal Credit	Universal Credit will create a single household allowance (called a personal allowance) which combines the help currently given in working-age benefits such as Jobseekers Allowance into a single streamlined payment.

## What Kind of Kinship Carer Are You?



SECTION 2:  
**"LOOKED AFTER" CHILDREN**



I am seven years old and I live with my gran, my mum is sick.

she takes things that make her sick and she has gone away to get better so I don't see my mum.

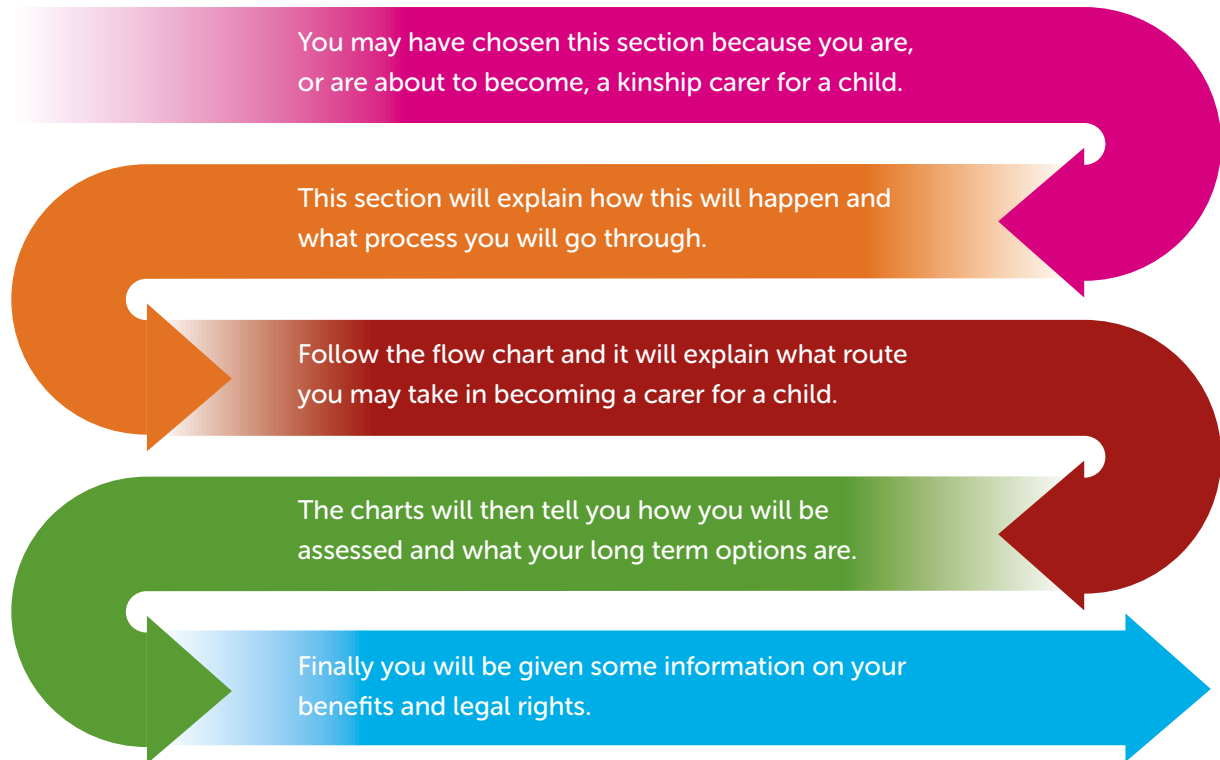
my house is different now, I have a bed and a warm floor but I have to wash, I never had to do that before. I also get nice food to eat but sometimes it is icky like broccoli.

I love my gran, she makes me happy and she doesn't shout at me. We go on walks and to the park. I have made new friends.

Boy aged 7

## “Looked After” Children

Welcome! You have chosen the section for “looked after” children.



Please also find a list of support agencies and kinship care support groups at the back of this guide in Section 5 for further information and support. Please also visit [www.kinship.scot](http://www.kinship.scot) for further information and updates.

## Case Study: Shirley, 68

Shirley a 68 year old widow has been caring for her two grandsons, Simon 8 and Rhys 7 for the past six years. Unbeknown to Shirley her daughter was known to social services due to a variety of issues and out of the blue Shirley was asked to take her grandsons and a small bag of their belongings from a police officer and social worker at 1.00am.

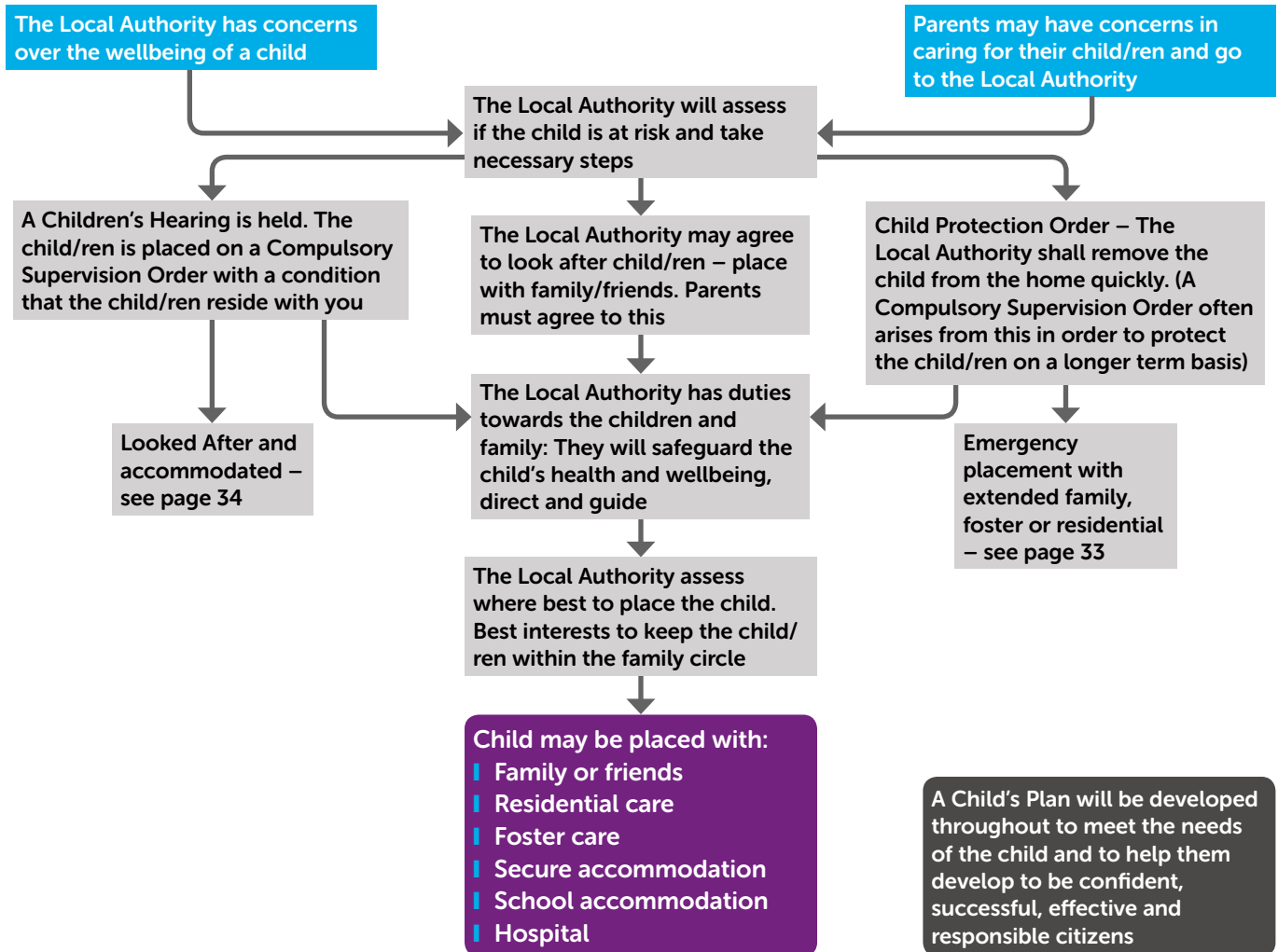
Apparently the boys were placed there on a Child Protection Order from the Court. Endless meetings were held, assessments conducted, and attendance at numerous Children's Hearings; Shirley lived in a daze. She couldn't sleep. She was caring for her grandchildren while trying to control the many emotions of anger, guilt and worry that she felt towards her daughter. She felt alone. All her savings and pension went on beds, clothes and toys for her grandsons – she had to spoil them to compensate for her daughter's behaviour.

Then the boys started to act up. Simon would hit his brother and Shirley, throw temper tantrums, smash things. Shirley did not know what to do or where to turn. Shirley phoned her social work office and demanded help. They referred her to specialists for help for Simon and they suggested a kinship support group for her.

After much dilemma Shirley attended a support meeting near her home. She was nervous but the group made her very welcome and she soon opened up. The support group changed her life. She found a group of people who understood, supported and gave practical help.

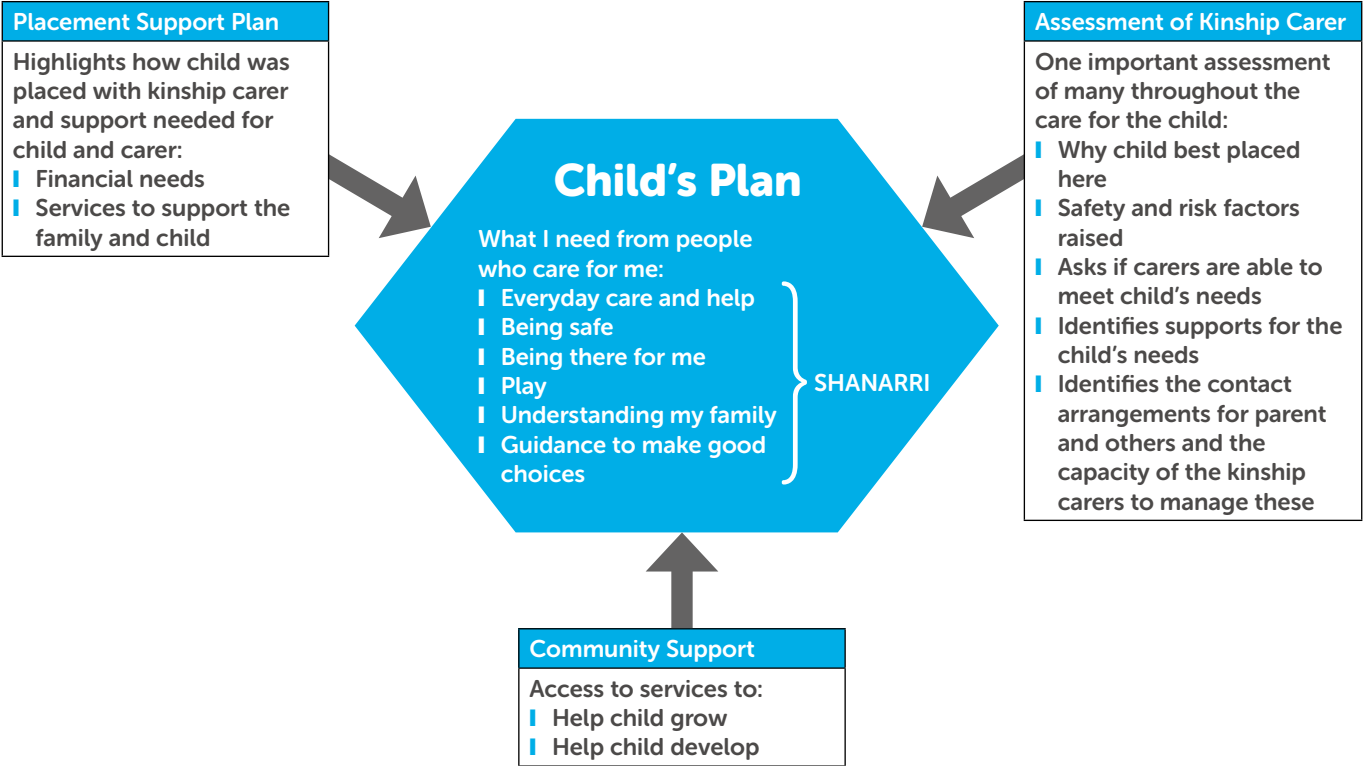
Things are good now. Simon is receiving specialised help from a psychologist and Shirley's a committed member of her local kinship care group. Now she offers help and advice to others and hopes it can make a difference to their lives too.

# Being Looked After



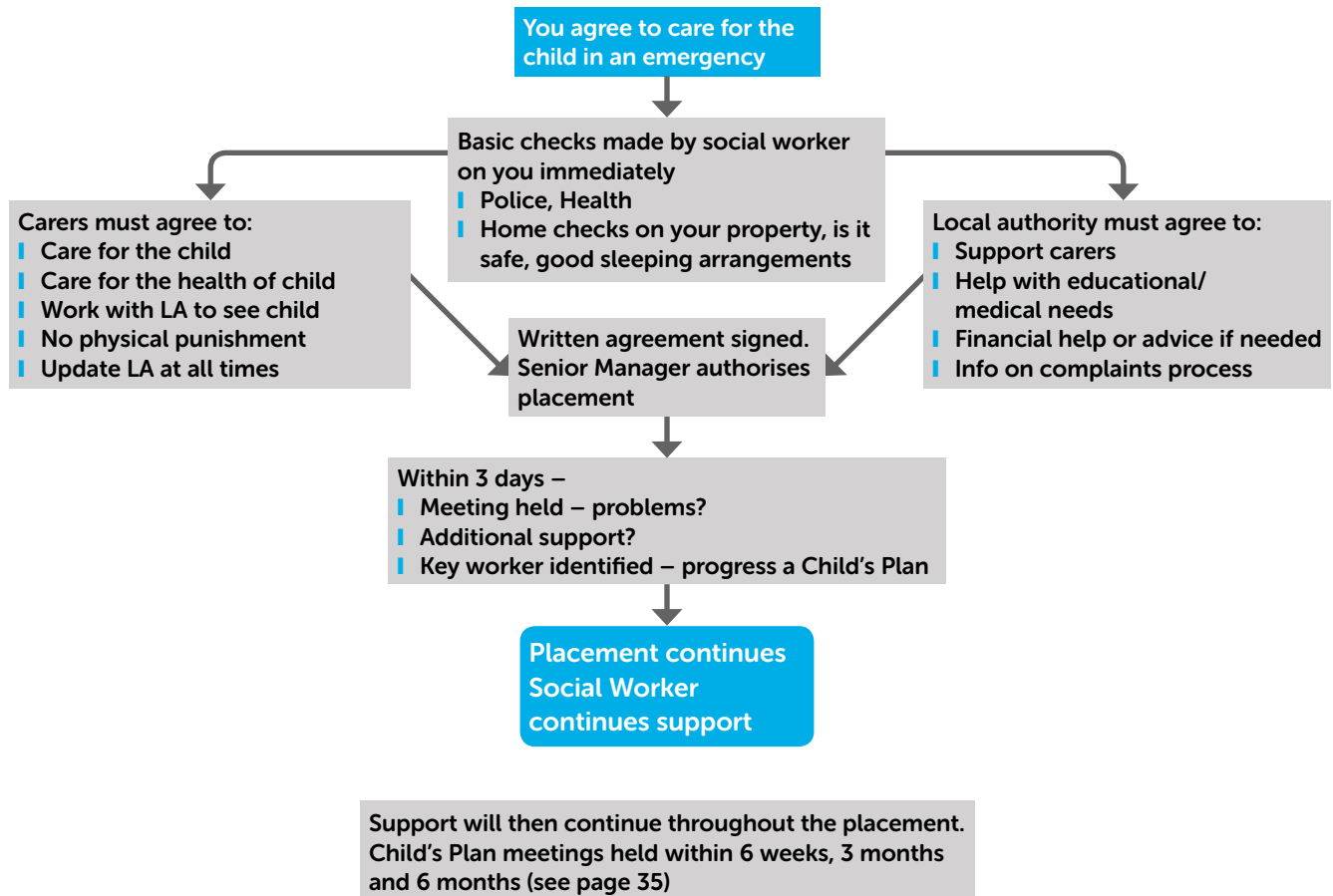
# Child's Plan

If the child is a looked after child, there is a requirement to prepare a Child's Plan under the Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009. The Child's Plan is a tool which is developed by social workers, professionals, the child and family members to help form a structured plan which meets the needs of the child. The carer's and child's views should always inform the Child's Plan. If necessary, an advocate to support the child to express their views at meetings and hearings can be provided. This plan will help the child to become a successful learner, confident individual, effective contributor and responsible citizen. This is the basis for the child's plan:





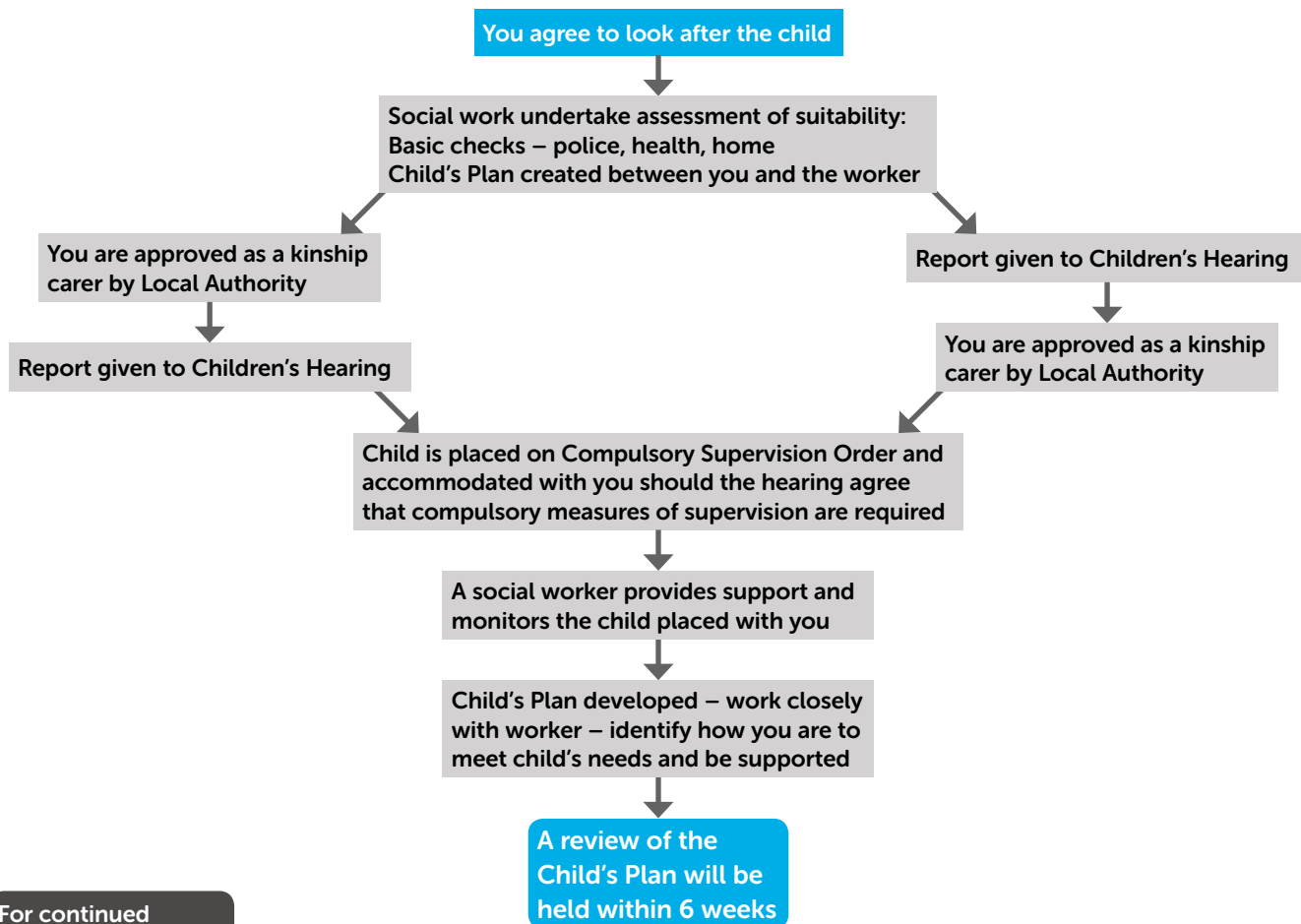
# Emergency Placement



If this process is not being followed by your Local Authority then contact them ASAP

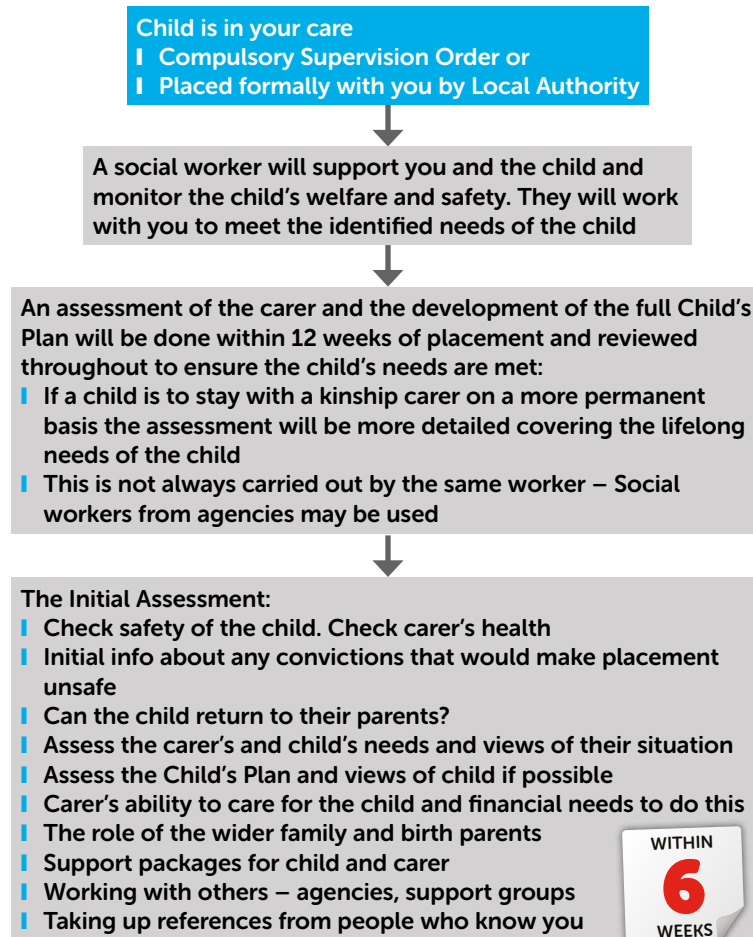
If at any time you are unsure of this process seek advice from agencies listed in the last section (page 111)

## Looked After and Accommodated



For continued  
support and reviews  
see page 35

# Continued Support and Reviews



Placement to be approved by Senior Manager at a review meeting Agreement made between carer and Local Authority to meet child's needs

CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE...

## Continued Support and Reviews continued

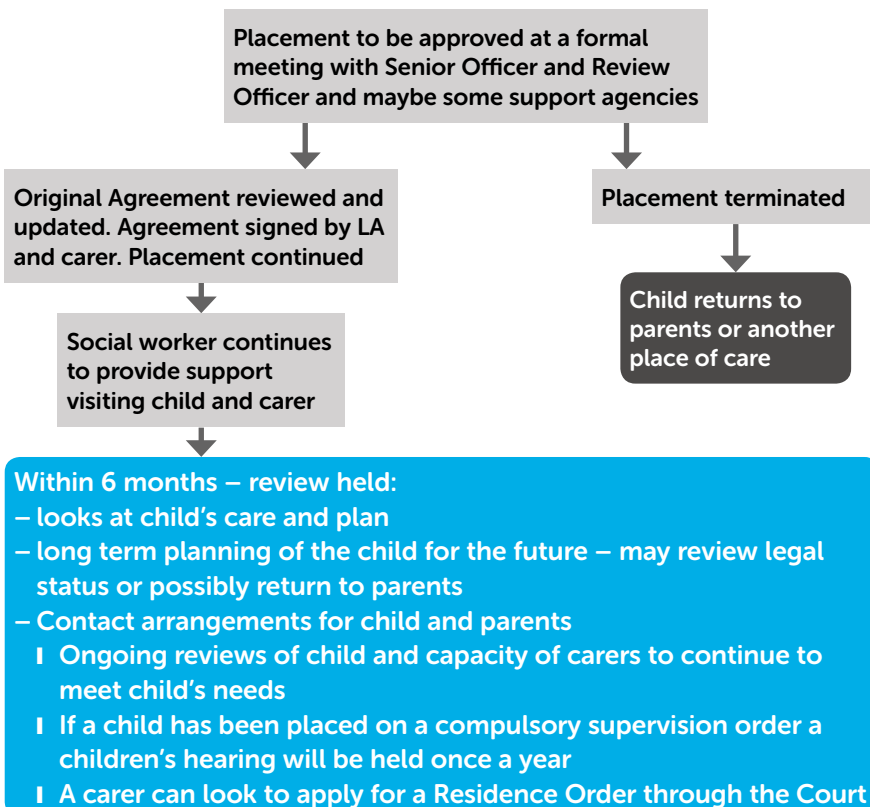
A social worker should work alongside you to carry out a detailed assessment of the all round care you will provide for the child and to develop an appropriate package of support for you and the child.

**Detailed Kinship Carer Assessment –** this will look towards long term care of the child:

- Assess all points from above
- Full PVG check on carer and enhanced disclosures on remaining adults in carer's household
- Look at a full family history – look at family dynamics and support networks
- Links to community support
- Working with external agencies – education, health, social work, advice agencies
- Meeting the child's developmental needs, sexual, physical, psychological
- Drug and alcohol issues
- Practical needs – housing and financial needs
- Working with support agencies
- Capacity to manage contact with child's parents in a way that supports the child

WITHIN  
**3**  
MONTHS

If this process is not being followed by your Local Authority then contact them ASAP

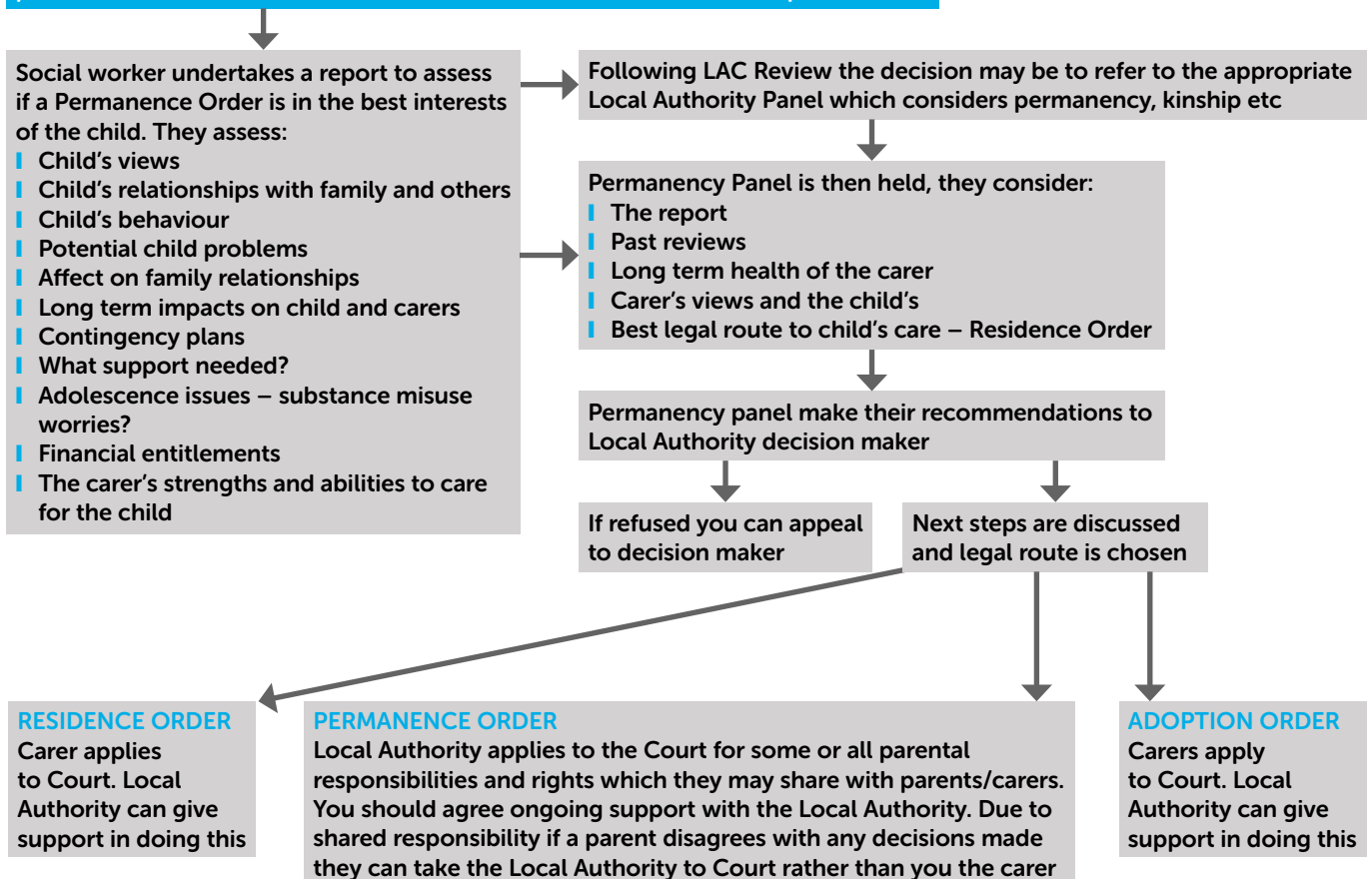


If at any time you are unsure of this process seek advice from agencies listed in the last section of this guide (page 111)

# Permanent Placement of a Child With Carers

Not all local authorities will consider making a permanent placement – please speak to your social worker for more details.

You have been caring for a child for over 6 months. At a LAC Review permanent placement of the child is considered as the child will not return to the parent's care



## Offering Permanent Care to a Child who is Placed in Foster Care

The child has been placed in foster care or in a residential establishment and has been there for some time

You have no parental responsibilities and rights for the child

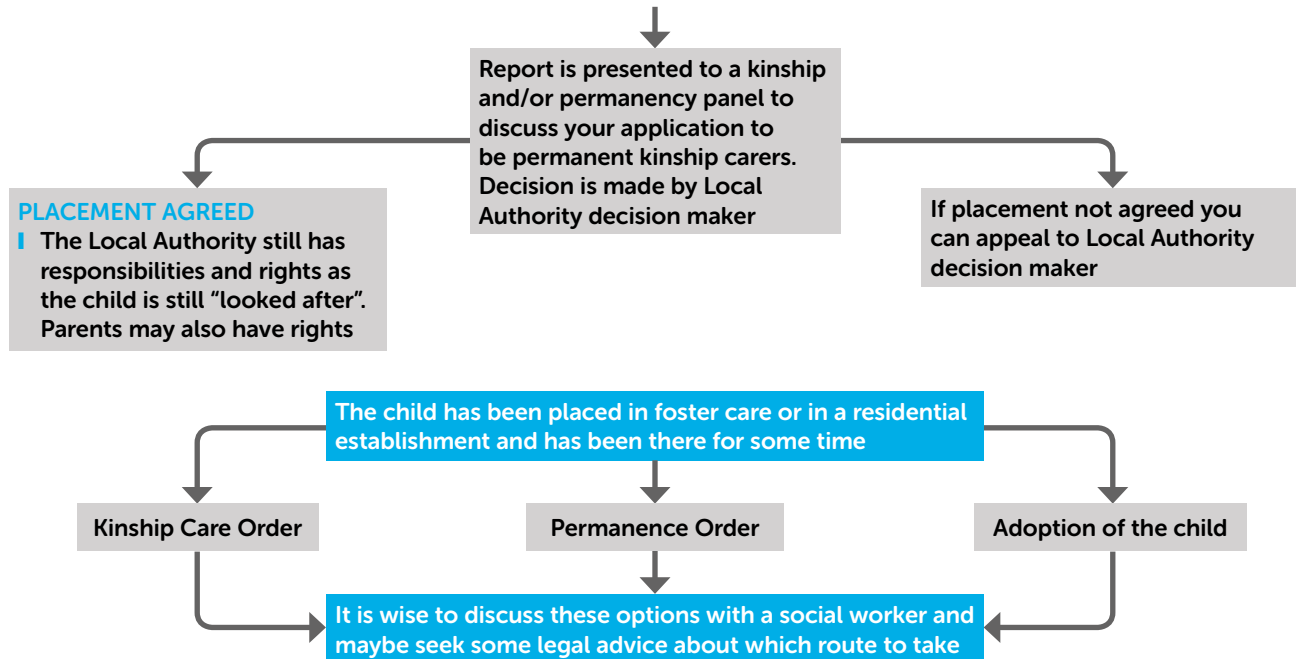
To care for the child you must notify the Local Authority of your wishes

A social worker will assess you to see if you are able to care for the child. If you are not in contact with the child the Local Authority may support you to get to know them. They will look at the Child's Plan and see if you can meet the needs of the child

### ASSESSMENT

- | Full family history
- | Family support/changes/tensions/wider family views
- | Health of potential carers
- | Community links
- | Relationships
- | Loss/grief/separation
- | Working with other agencies
- | Attitudes to child's development
- | Drug and alcohol issues
- | Practical issues/housing/finance/pressure
- | Child's views
- | Child's Plan
- | Motivation of carers
- | Any criminal convictions

## Offering Permanent Care to Child Who is Placed in Foster Care continued



Not all Local Authorities use Permanence Orders – if unsure please contact them ASAP

If at any time you are unsure of this process seek advice from agencies specified in the last section of this guide (page 111)

# Seeking Parental Responsibilities and Rights

We strongly recommend you seek advice before seeking an order from the Court. This advice could be from the Citizens Advice Bureau, a law centre or a solicitor. If you need a solicitor's advice you may be eligible for Legal Aid.

## Would you like more of a say over decisions about the child in your care?

When caring for a "looked after" child you have limited rights on how the child/ren is brought up

- The child's parents still have all parental responsibilities and rights

### And/or

- The Local Authority may have some parental responsibilities and rights

## If you would like to have more of a say over the child in your care you will:

- Have to go to Court to apply for some or all parental responsibilities and rights
- This is known as a Section 11 (1) Order which once obtained can also be called a Kinship Care Order
- Discuss with Local Authority about a Permanence Order

## So why would you like to do this?

Here are some advantages and disadvantages of obtaining some or all parental responsibilities and rights:

### ADVANTAGES OF HAVING A KINSHIP CARE ORDER

- The birth parents will have reduced rights for the child depending on court decision
- You can apply for a passport and take the child out of the country
- You can consent to all medical and dental treatment
- You can have a say on what happens to the child's money or property
- You can make decisions on where or how the child is schooled
- You can consent to educational and other support for the child
- Disciplining the child
- Choosing the religion for the child
- Agreeing to the renaming of the child
- Allowing confidential information to be disclosed about the child
- It gives a greater sense of security for the child, a feeling that they belong

### DISADVANTAGES OF NOT HAVING A KINSHIP CARE ORDER

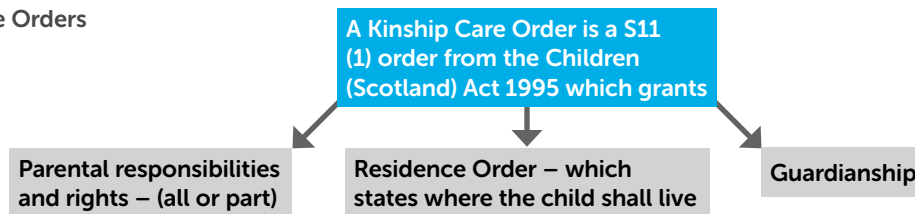
- You cannot apply for a passport for the child
- You need permission to take child away
- You cannot consent to medical treatment
- You do not have any say over the child's money or property
- You cannot decide where the child is schooled
- You may not be consulted about the child's right to educational and other support
- You cannot appeal against any decisions made about the child unless deemed a "relevant person"
- Local Authority or parents will have the overall say



# A Kinship Care Order

Information regarding a Kinship Care Order and kinship care assistance can be found in Part 13 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Kinship Care Assistance (Scotland) Order 2016.

## Kinship Care Orders



To receive a Kinship Care Order you must be a person who:

- Is related to the child
- Is a friend/acquaintance of a person who is related to the child
- Has a relationship or connection to the child

A parent does not apply.

In some cases a parent will retain some parental responsibilities and rights for the children which can have an impact on the child and the carer. The Local Authority must provide information and advice to those seeking, holding or subject to a Kinship Care Order.

The purpose of a Kinship Care Order can ensure a more stable home for the child. Having parental responsibilities and rights will allow the kinship carer to make a range of

decisions in relation to a child's day to day life. Such as:

- Consent to a child's medical procedures
- Obtain a passport for the child
- Be responsible for their property

Once a Kinship Care Order has been granted the child is no longer looked after by a Local Authority. Where a child's wellbeing need has been identified that support will be given through means of support available to all children. If the child has a specific wellbeing need the Child's Plan will be followed with the involvement of a lead professional.

An order will continue until the child is 16 years where it is felt a child will be able to decide their own place of residence. In exceptional circumstances an order may continue past 16 years.

# Types of Kinship Care Assistance

## Advice and Information

Where a person is considering applying for or is applying for a Kinship Care Order they must be provided with appropriate information and advice which will enable them to make a decision on obtaining a Kinship Care Order. This should include:

- What is a Kinship Care Order
- Benefits and limitations of a Kinship Care Order
- How to find and instruct a solicitor
- How to apply for legal aid
- How to apply to the Local Authority for financial support to pay toward the costs of an order
- What happens at a hearing at the Sheriff Court
- How the child's, parents' and kinship carer's views are considered by the court
- What happens when a Kinship Care Order is granted
- What may happen if it is not granted
- Complaint procedures
- Details of local and national advice and support networks

Going to Court can be an emotional and challenging time for the family. Some kinship carers may face divided loyalties in taking court action for parental responsibilities and rights from parents particularly when they may be their own children or younger siblings. You need to speak to someone to discuss the full implications of this decision. You can speak to your social worker or alternatively look at Section 5 to find a list of national and local support networks.

## Financial Allowances

Kinship care arrangements can cause significant financial impact on a family. Financial circumstances change due to caring responsibilities, employability may be affected and so may the long term stability of the placement.

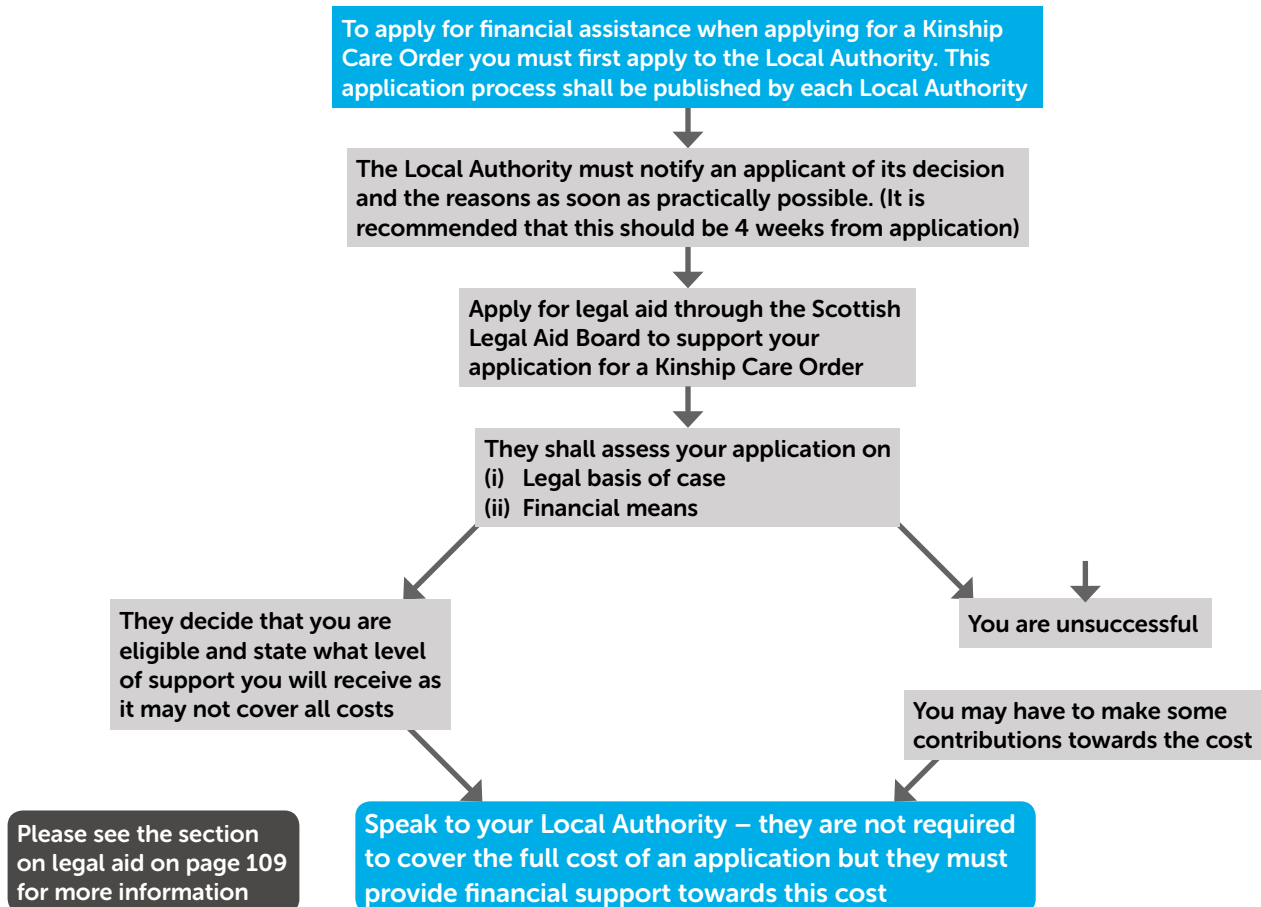
Child benefit and child tax credits are intended to cover the cost of accommodation and maintenance of a child however we advise kinship carers to do a benefits check to ensure that they are fully aware of all benefits that they may be entitled to. Additional costs do arise in caring for a child such as travel costs related to family contact and a financial allowance is intended to help with these costs.

Kinship care assistance can then include a financial allowance for;

- Someone who has obtained a Kinship Care Order for an eligible child
- An appointed guardian of an eligible child
- A child who is now 16 and had a Kinship Care Order immediately before turning 16 and/or
- An eligible child
- An eligible child who has an appointed guardian

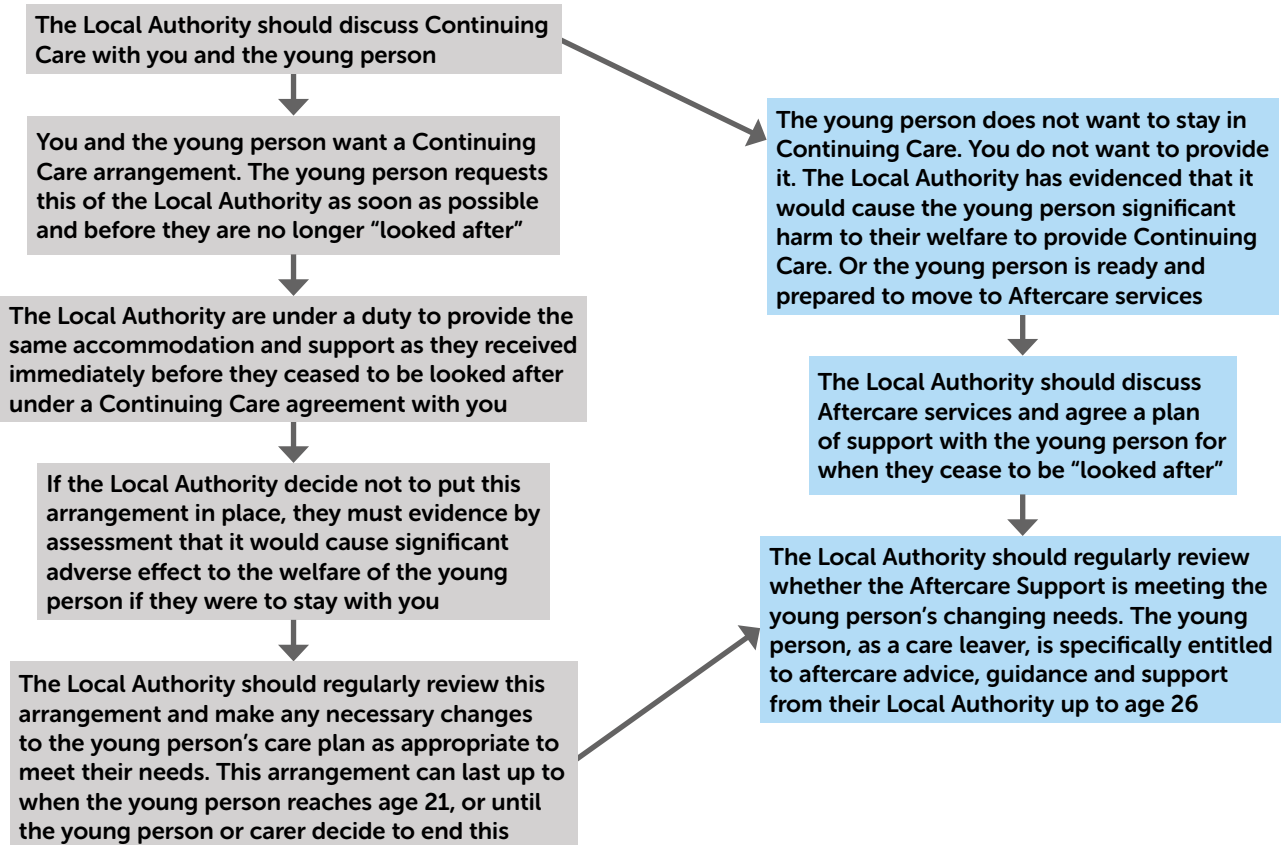
# Financial Assistance for a Kinship Care Order

The Kinship Care Assistance (Scotland) Order 2016 includes the provision of financial support when applying for a Kinship Care Order.



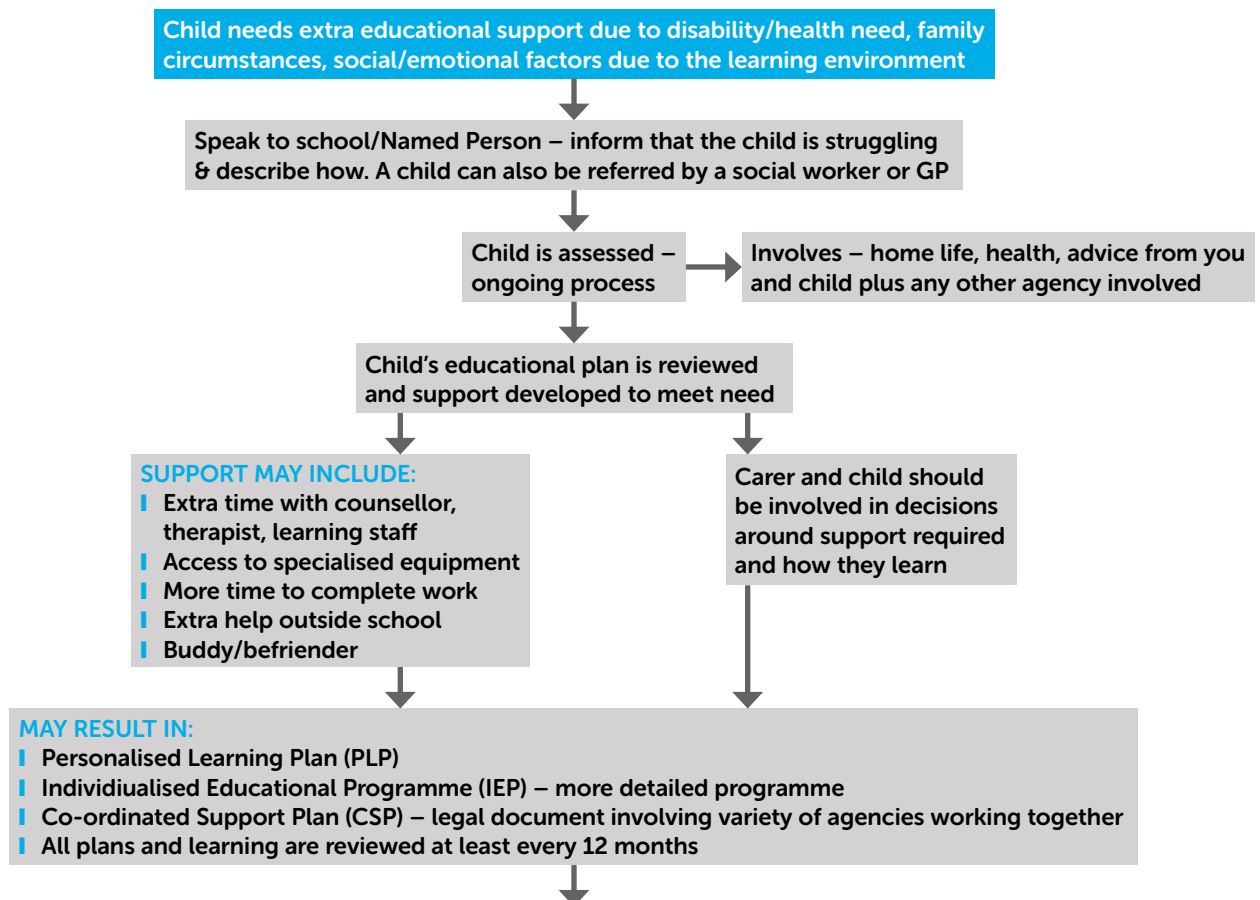
## Continuing Care and Aftercare

You are caring for a "looked after" child/young person who is aged 16 or older. They can choose to stay in Continuing Care with you, until they are ready to leave home or until they reach age 21. Regular planning and review meetings should consider plans for post "looked after" care. These discussions should consider Continuing Care with you or Aftercare services



# Additional Support for Learning

According to the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004/2009, every child in Scotland should receive extra support in school if required. Looked after children are considered to have additional support needs unless they have been assessed and found that this is not the case.



CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE...

## Additional Support for Learning continued



### TRANSITION TO DIFFERENT SCHOOL OR LEAVING SCHOOL:

- | School will help to plan what is next – at least 12 months in advance
- | School will work with carer, child and other appropriate professionals i.e. college, social worker to ensure needs are met
- | Transition meetings – allow young person to talk about options. An advocate can attend to support



If unhappy about any support, contact school in the first instance then the education authority. If still unhappy, contact Enquire for further options

For further detailed advice and information – please contact Enquire, you can find their details on page 116

# Your Legal Responsibilities and Rights

A child is born

Mother has full parental responsibilities and rights

Father has responsibilities and rights if:

- 1) He is married to the mother when or since the child was conceived
- 2) He is named on the child's birth certificate (from 4 May 2006)
- 3) Mother can grant rights to father through Parental Responsibilities and Parental Rights Agreement
- 4) Father can apply to courts to be granted parental responsibilities and rights

- Both have a legal responsibility to keep the child safe and promote their health, development and welfare through direction and guidance.
- They act as the child's legal representative

## Responsibilities of Carer for a "looked after" child

If you are caring for a child through an agreement with the Local Authority

- The parents may retain full parental responsibilities and rights for the child
- The Local Authority has a number of duties towards the child

- You have a duty to care for the child to safeguard and promote the health and development of the child's welfare through direction and guidance
- You must follow the Child's plan and ensure that all their needs are met

If and when a child is ill and may need to go into hospital, carers need to be aware of the healthcare rights, needs and issues relating to the child in their care. Please visit Action for Sick Children (Scotland) for further information. Details can be found in Section 5.

## Prior to being a carer

Do you feel that the child is in danger or at risk?

Is the child in immediate danger, i.e. the child is left unattended?

If you have serious concerns contact the Police or social services about your concerns immediately.

You should not remove the child from the parent's home without consent. **If the child however is in immediate danger please dial 999 to contact the Police.**

## Your Legal Responsibilities and Rights continued

### How a child may be placed with you

- **S25 Children (Scotland) Act 1995** – a child is accommodated by the Local Authority.

A Local Authority shall provide accommodation for any child who having been found in their area appears to need help because:

- The child was orphaned and no one had parental responsibility for them
- The child is lost or abandoned
- The child's carers have been prevented from providing suitable accommodation or care for them
- It will safeguard and/or promote the child's welfare

They must only do this with the agreement of the parents unless they cannot be found.

- **S83 of the Children's Hearing (Scotland) Act 2011** – Compulsory Supervision Order

A child is referred to a Children's Hearing when compulsory measures of supervision may be necessary. This can be for many reasons – for example, the child is being neglected or harmed, not being looked after well, not going to school or committing offences.

A Children's Hearing can place the child under a Compulsory Supervision Order with a condition that he/she resides with kinship carers. A Compulsory Supervision Order lasts for one year, after which it must be reviewed by a Children's Hearing. Compulsory Supervision Orders can also be reviewed by a Children's Hearing during the year if requested by a parent.

- **Change to S37 Children's Hearing (Scotland) Act 2011** – Child Protection Order – Emergency Placement

These are short term orders lasting up to 8 days. Then a Children's Hearing will consider the child's case. A Sheriff can make a Child Protection Order where he/she feels that the child is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm.

The Sheriff can authorise:

- removal of the child from their home
- placement of the child in a place of safety
- consider and specify what contact arrangements between the child and parent should take place

The Local Authority shall be responsible for the placement of that child.

For further information on legal rights visit [www.kinship.scot](http://www.kinship.scot)



## Your Legal Responsibilities and Rights continued

### ■ Transfers/Cross Boundaries

This is a complicated process where the child is “looked after” by a Local Authority which is different to the one in which you live. This may also include a child moving from England to Scotland which can involve a range of different practices and terminology which can be very confusing. Due to this there can then be issues around support and financial assistance between the authorities, which may impact on you. At some point the case should be transferred to the Local Authority in which you live.

If you are in this situation please speak to your Local Authority or alternatively seek legal advice.

All “looked after” children subject to a Compulsory Supervision Order will have an “Implementation Authority” nominated by the Children’s Hearing.

### ■ Continuing Care

**S26A Children (Scotland) Act 1995** – Continuing Care as inserted by Section 67(1) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

A Local Authority shall provide the same accommodation and support that was being provided prior to the young person ceasing to be “looked after” beyond their 16th

birthday and born after 1 April 1999, in kinship, residential and foster care. A young person can choose to remain in Continuing Care up to the age of 21

Kinship carers have a responsibility to provide a young person with this continuing support until they reach the age of 21, or until the young person is prepared to move on. However, this might not always be suitable for the carers so kinship carers also have a right under legislation to decide not to provide this.

### ■ Permanence Orders

**S80 Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007** – A local authority can apply to the Courts for a Permanence Order in respect of a child who can no longer live with their parents. A Permanence Order may remove some or all parental responsibilities and rights and place these with the local authority. All Permanence Orders will contain provisions which regulate the child’s residence as well as the responsibility to provide, in a manner appropriate to the stage of development of the child, guidance to the child.



# Benefit Information

You are caring for a child who is “looked after” by the Local Authority

- You should receive payments from the Local Authority to care for the child

Every Local Authority in Scotland makes its own arrangements on how they pay Kinship Care Allowance and the amount that they pay. Every situation is different. It is essential that you ask for advice that is relevant to you and your own circumstances.

## KINSHIP ALLOWANCES

Following additional funding from the Scottish Government all local authorities have agreed to pay a kinship allowance at a minimum of the same rate as foster carers in their Local Authority area. This will apply to all formal kinship carers where the child is looked after. Funding started on 1 October 2015. It may take local authorities a short while to determine how much each kinship carer should now receive. However, where there is a delay in doing this, it is expected that payments are to be backdated to 1 October.

## IMPACT OF RECEIVING A PAYMENT FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

It is **really** important that you understand that if you accept an allowance from your Local Authority it may make a difference to the Social Security benefits or Tax Credits you are entitled to receive – but don’t worry, the CAB can help you with this.

Any child/ren related benefits or tax credits you receive for your own child will not be affected.

If you accept Local Authority Kinship Care Payments you must tell the relevant departments eg. DWP/HMRC that you have had a change of circumstances and that you are now receiving an allowance.

We recommend that you seek a benefits check from a CAB or Benefits Adviser to help you be clear as to your benefit entitlement.

## Benefit Information continued



If you contact a Citizens Advice Bureau you will be asked key questions in order to work out your entitlements

### QUESTION 1:

They will ask you if you are caring for a “looked after” or “non looked after” child.

### QUESTION 2:

If the child is looked after then the advisor will want to know how this placement was made – please select from the 3 legal routes on the right.

### ANSWER:

You have chosen the ‘looked after’ section of the guide. If you are not sure that the child you care for is ‘looked after’, go back and have another look at the flowchart on page 26. What kind of kinship carer are you?, or speak to your social worker or CAB adviser about it

### ANSWER:

YOUR SITUATION	LEGAL ROUTE
Has there been a Children’s Hearing?	A Supervision Order under the Children’s Hearing (Scotland) Act 2011
Voluntary arrangements between social work and the child’s parents but formal arrangement between you and social work	Section 25 Children (Scotland) Act 1995
If the arrangement may last for a long time	Permanence Order under Section 80 Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007



# Benefit Information continued

## QUESTION 3:

The advisor will then want to know if you are receiving any kinship care payments from your Local Authority. If so, they will want to know what section of legislation the Local Authority is using to make the payment and what the payment is for. Please select from the three possible sections on the right:

## ANSWER:

SECTION
Section 22 Children (Scotland) Act 1995
Section 110 Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007
Section 50 of the Children Act 1975

Knowing the answers to these questions will help your adviser carry out a calculation of the amount of kinship care allowance you will be eligible to receive based on the way in which the local authority makes payment and your own individual entitlement to Child Benefit, Child Tax Credit and other financial circumstances – i.e. income, savings etc

Remember each situation is different. It is essential that you ask for advice that is relevant to your own circumstances.

- If you are caring for a looked after child the local authority has a responsibility to make payment of kinship care allowance and ensure that the financial support you receive is at the same rate as fostering allowance.

- If the Local Authority is making regular payments for accommodation and/or maintenance then things can get complicated.

Here is a list of benefits that you may be able to receive and contact details if you wish to gain further information:

## Benefit Information continued



THE BENEFIT	WHAT IT MEANS	CONTACT DETAILS OF THE AWARDING BODY
<b>Kinship Care Allowance</b>	This is currently paid at the same rate as local fostering allowance, and any entitlement to Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit will be deducted. If the Local Authority makes payment for any purpose other than accommodation and maintenance of a looked after child, you will be entitled to apply for Child Tax Credit. The Local Authority should not deduct from the kinship care payment any disability element paid as part of Child Tax Credit payments for a child with a disability.	Local Authority
<b>Child Benefit (CB)</b>	<p>If you are a kinship carer of a 'looked after' child you should be able to claim Child Benefit for that child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The exception to this is if your Local Authority is making you payments of Kinship Care Allowance under S110 of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act – in these circumstances, HMRC might decide you are not entitled.</li> <li>When you apply, state that the claim is for a 'looked after' child in kinship care and let HMRC know if/how the Local Authority is paying you Kinship Care Allowance.</li> </ul> <p>If you have any difficulty with your claim, contact a CAB for support.</p>	<p>HM Revenue and Customs PO Box 1 Newcastle Upon Tyne NE88 1AA T: 0300 200 3100</p>
<b>Guardians Allowance (GA)</b>	You may receive this in addition to child benefit but only in special circumstances.	<p>HM Revenue and Customs PO Box 1 Newcastle Upon Tyne NE88 1AA T: 0300 200 3100</p>
<b>Child Tax Credit (CTC)</b>	If you receive a payment from the Local Authority to cover the accommodation or maintenance of the child you care for, you will not receive CTC.	<p>HM Revenue and Customs (Tax Credits) Tax Credit Office Preston PR1 4AT <a href="http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits">www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits</a> T: 0345 300 3900</p>

CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE...

## Benefit Information continued



THE BENEFIT	WHAT IT MEANS	CONTACT DETAILS OF THE AWARDING BODY
<b>Working Tax Credit (WTC)</b>	If the child is placed through a Compulsory Supervision Order you may be able to receive payments.	As above
<b>Income Support and Income based JSA (IS/IBJSA)</b>	Local Authority kinship allowance payments do not normally count as income and so should not affect the amount of IS/IBJSA you receive	Department for Work & Pensions T: 0800 055 6688 Text: 0800 023 4888 <a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk">www.dwp.gov.uk</a>
<b>Housing Benefit/ Council Tax Reduction (HB/CTR)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This depends on your income and the age of the child.</li> <li>The benefit will also depend on whether the child is considered part of the household.</li> </ul> Kinship carers are permitted to have one extra room to accommodate the child/children they care for before incurring an under-occupancy charge.	Local Authority office
<b>Pension credit (PC)</b>	Any payments from the Local Authority will not affect your PC.	The Pension Service <a href="http://www.pensionservice.gov.uk">www.pensionservice.gov.uk</a> T: 0800 99 1234 Text: 0800 169 0133
<b>Disability Living Allowance (DLA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a child has a disability and is entitled to DLA, payments are made to the child's appointee. A kinship carer can apply to be the appointee for a child they care for.</li> <li>The amount of DLA paid depends on the nature of the disability.</li> <li>Kinship Care Allowance payments from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of DLA received.</li> </ul>	<b>Benefit Enquiry Line</b> T: 0345 712 3456 Text: 0345 722 4433
<b>Employment &amp; Support Allowance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligibility will depend on your income, savings, health and other circumstances.</li> <li>Kinship Care Allowance payments from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of ESA you receive.</li> </ul>	Department for Work & Pensions T: 0800 055 6688 Text: 0800 023 4888 <a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk">www.dwp.gov.uk</a>
<b>Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You may be able to claim for emergency or particular needs through a crisis or a community care grant.</li> <li>Neither grants are repayable.</li> </ul>	Local Authority

# Universal Credit

Universal Credit (UC) has started to replace means-tested benefits and tax credits. Eventually the following benefits and tax credits will be replaced by Universal Credit:

- Income Support
- Income-based JSA
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit

## Child element

UC can include an amount for dependent children, called the child element. Kinship carers of a looked after child will not get the child element .

## Housing costs element

UC can include a housing costs element to help with rent or mortgage interest. If the claimant lives in rented accommodation the amount of the housing costs element is based on how many bedrooms they are deemed to need (the 'size criteria'). Looked after children in kinship care are not included in the size criteria. Kinship carers of looked after children ('approved kinship carers') are allowed one extra room in the size criteria, regardless of how many children they care for.

## Childcare costs element

If the claimant is working, UC can include a childcare costs element for a dependent child or children. A looked after child in kinship care does not count as a dependent. This means that the kinship carer of a looked after child cannot get help with childcare costs for that child through UC.

## Work allowance

The 'work allowance' is an amount that some UC claimants are allowed to earn before their earnings start affecting the amount of UC they get. Only claimants with a dependent child or children or who have 'limited capability for work' get a work allowance. A looked after child in kinship care does not count as a dependent child.

## Treatment of Local Authority payments

Any payment made by the Local Authority should be disregarded as income for Universal Credit.

For developments in Universal Credit please visit [www.kinship.scot](http://www.kinship.scot) for more information

# Benefits for Care Leavers

Many care leavers aged 16/17 years old cannot receive :

- Income Support
- Income-based JSA
- Housing Benefit or
- Universal Credit

The Local Authority that is responsible for you must provide financial and housing support. This can be known as aftercare, aftercare services or leaving care services. This now also affects those 16 and 17 year olds in continuing care.

A young care leaver is affected if they meet all the following:

- Aged 16 or over and under 18
- They were looked after and accommodated by the Local Authority for at least 13 weeks since age of 14 (does not have to be continuous 13 weeks)
- They were looked after by the Local Authority at their 16th birthday or after that date
- They are no longer looked after by the Local Authority
- They are not living with their family or they are living with their family and are receiving regular financial support from the Local Authority

Exceptions:

<b>Lone Parent</b>	You could claim income support or income based job seekers allowance, but not housing benefit. The Local Authority will not give regular financial support but should still provide or pay for accommodation.
<b>Care leavers too unwell to work</b>	Can claim employment and support allowance (ESA). They will not be able to claim housing benefit but the Local Authority should still provide or pay for accommodation.

## Case Study

Rob is 17. When he was 14 he started being looked after away from home. He lived with his aunt who was a kinship carer. This continued until a few months after his 16th birthday when he stopped being looked after and moved into support accommodation run by a voluntary organisation. Rob is a care leaver who cannot get Income Support, Income-based JSA or Housing Benefit.



## Benefits for Care Leavers continued

### UNIVERSAL CREDIT FOR CARE LEAVERS

Universal Credit (UC) has started to replace means-tested benefits and tax credits. Eventually the following benefits and tax credits will be replaced by Universal Credit:

- Income Support
- Income-based JSA
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit

The Universal Credit rules for care leavers aged 16 and 17 are very similar to the special rules for Income Support, Income-based JSA and Housing Benefit, except that young care leavers are still excluded from Universal Credit, even if they return to live with their family, regardless of whether the Local Authority is supporting them. This means that care leavers, and those in continuing care, aged 16 and 17 are not generally able to claim Universal Credit. Instead the Local Authority is responsible for providing financial support and housing. The exceptions for young care leavers or those in continuing care are:

- If they are parents
- If they are too unwell to work

You will then be able to claim Universal Credit for living expenses but not for rent.

For more information on Universal Credit and other welfare reforms see [www.cpag.org.uk](http://www.cpag.org.uk)

## Case Studies

The following case studies are examples. Please note that not all Local Authorities pay in the same way. Always check with the appropriate body as listed on the previous pages.

### LOIS

Lois is a single pensioner. She receives:

++ A state pension and an occupational pension ++ Pension Credit ++

Lois agrees to care for her granddaughter, Susie, who is two years old. Susie has been placed with Lois by the Local Authority following a decision by the Children's Hearing to make Susie the subject of a Compulsory Supervision Order, with a condition of residence with Lois. She is therefore a 'looked after' child.

#### Now Lois receives:

- A kinship care payment from her Local Authority, paid through Section 50 of the Children Act 1975
- Child Benefit – should be payable in these circumstances (it is advised that Lois tells HMRC when she applies for Child Benefit that she is receiving a Section 50 kinship care payment from the Local Authority)
- Her state pension and occupational pension, as before
- Pension Credit, as before (the amount of Pension Credit is not affected by either the kinship care payments or the Child Benefit that Lois now receives)

#### Lois will not receive:

- Child Tax Credit – Section 50 payments are intended for maintenance of the child and this excludes Lois from being eligible for Child Tax Credit

## Case Studies continued

### PETER AND MAY

Peter and May are a married couple in their twenties, both working full time. They receive: ++ No state benefits as their incomes are too high ++

They agree to look after May's seven year old niece, Sally. She is placed with them by the Local Authority under Section 25 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and is a 'looked after' child. May gives up her job because Sally is disabled and has significant care needs.

#### Now Peter and May receive:

- | A kinship care payment from their Local Authority, paid through Section 22 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- | Child Benefit – should be payable in these circumstances (it is advised that May tells HMRC when she applies for Child Benefit that she is receiving a Section 22 kinship care payment)
- | Disability Living Allowance (for Sally, but paid to May as her appointee)
- | May could claim carer's allowance because she is caring for Sally who is disabled

#### They will not receive

- | Working Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit as Peter's income on its own is still too high

## Case Studies continued

### RACHEL

Rachel is unemployed and lives with her 15 year old daughter, Vicky. She receives:  
++ Jobseeker's Allowance ++ Housing Benefit ++ Council Tax Reduction ++  
Child Benefit ++ Child Tax Credit ++

Rachel agrees to care for her four year old nephew, Dylan. He has been placed with Rachel by the Local Authority following a decision by the Children's Hearing to make Dylan the subject of a Compulsory Supervision Order, with a condition of residence with Rachel. He is therefore a 'looked after' child.

#### Now Rachel receives:

- A kinship care payment from her Local Authority, paid through Section 50 of the Children Act 1975
- Income Support – Rachel can now claim IS and does not have to be actively seeking work.
- Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction, as before
- Child Benefit – Rachel's Child Benefit for Vicky will not be affected. Child Benefit should also be payable in these circumstances for Dylan (it is advised that Rachel tells HMRC when she applies for Child Benefit for Dylan that she is receiving Section 50 kinship care payments from the Local Authority)
- Child Tax Credit – Rachel's Child Tax Credit for Vicky will not be affected.

#### She will not receive:

- Child Tax Credit for Dylan – Section 50 payments are intended for maintenance of the child and this excludes Rachel from being eligible for Child Tax Credit for Dylan.

SECTION 3:  
**"NON LOOKED AFTER" CHILDREN**



I have a new bunny his name is floppy  
because he has big floppy ears.

He is brown and white. Floppy lives with me  
and my auntie and uncle.

I like feeding him lots of carrots and  
sometimes my uncle lets me take him out  
of his cage and sit on my knee. I like when  
I do that, floppy is all warm and fluffy and  
his hair tickles my nose.

I am happy.

Girl aged 8

## Case Study

### Tom & Anne

**Tom and Anne were a couple in their early forties who took over the care of their niece and nephew, Tim, age 2 and Courtney, age 3 as their mother had problems with alcohol. They were placed by the Local Authority until their mother was well enough to look after them again, Tom and Anne received a kinship allowance to help them do this.**

Unfortunately their mother's problems increased and it was suggested that Tom and Anne play a more permanent role in their lives. Social workers suggested that they seek a Kinship Care Order. This would give them parental responsibilities and rights under a Section 11(1) Order through the court as this would provide security for the children. With the backing of the children's mother Anne and Tom decided to do it.

After a few months, a lot of reports and visits to Court, Anne and Tom received a Kinship Care Order providing them with some parental responsibilities and rights. This meant that the children were no longer the responsibility of the Local Authority however they were assured by social work that

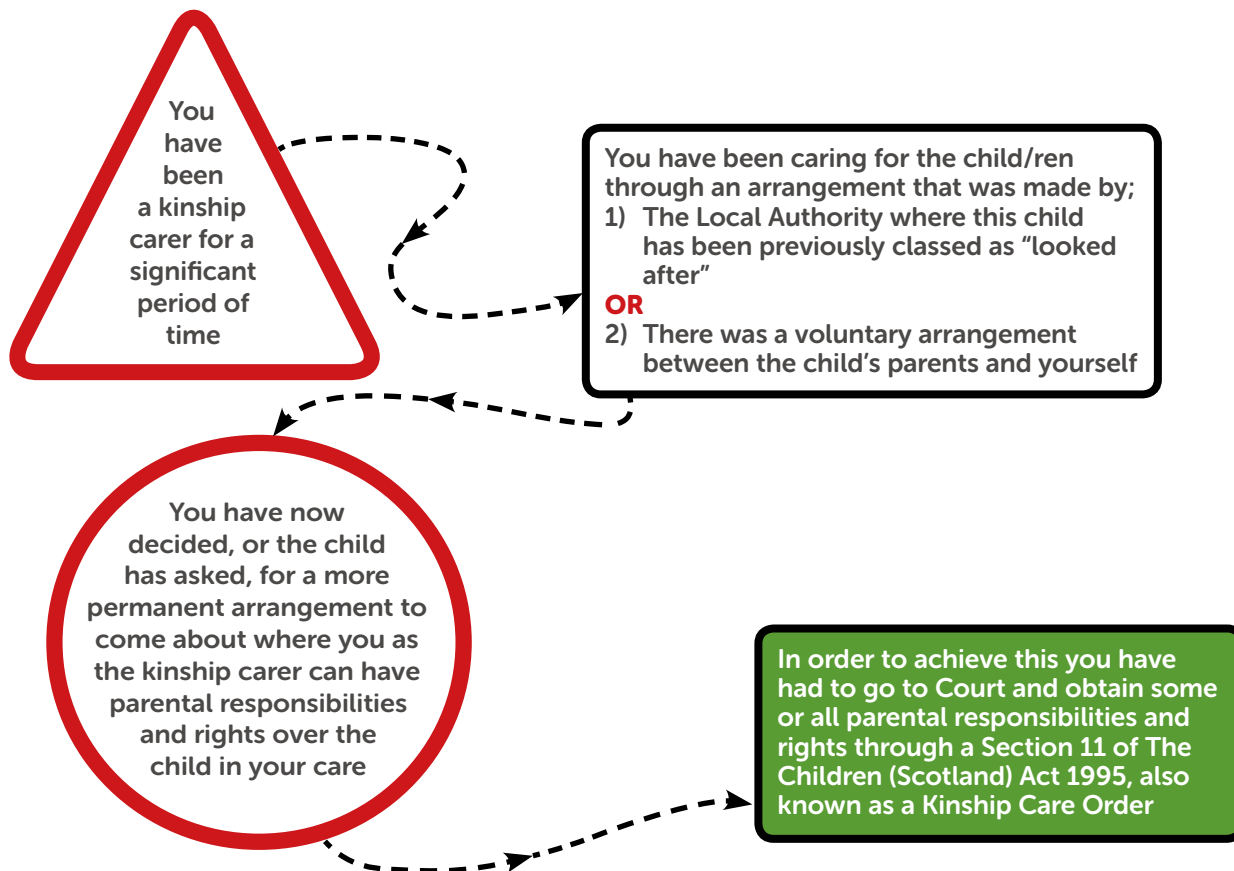
support would be provided as and when needed and they would still receive a kinship allowance to help them support the children. For a fresh start Anne and Tom decided to move to a new area of town and enrolled the children in a new nursery.

They received a letter from a solicitor on behalf of the mother, she stated that she did not agree with the children being taken away and placed in a nursery, she would take them to court to prevent this. This was a stressful time for Anne and Tom. They would have to go to Court and pay high legal fees while the mother received legal aid.

Anne called her social work office and asked for help, she was told that they could offer her support as Tim and Courtney had previously been "looked after" children. They received residence payments to support the children and they then held a family meeting with their mother who agreed to drop the case.

## About “Non Look After” Children

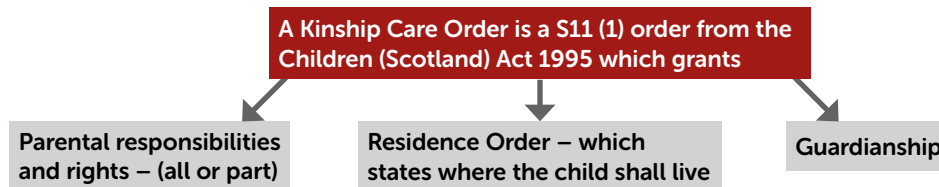
Welcome! You have chosen the section for “non looked after” children. This section will explain your role and provide some information of your benefits and legal rights. Please find a list of support agencies in Section 5 of the guide if at any time you need help when caring for a child.





# A Kinship Care Order

Information regarding a Kinship Care Order and kinship care assistance can be found in Part 13 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Kinship Care Assistance (Scotland) Order 2016.



To receive a Kinship Care Order you must be a person who:

- Is related to the child
- Is a friend/acquaintance of a person who is related to the child
- Has a relationship or connection to the child

A parent does not apply.

In some cases a parent will retain some parental responsibilities and rights for the children which can have an impact on the child and the carer. The Local Authority must provide information and advice to those seeking, holding or subject to a Kinship Care Order.

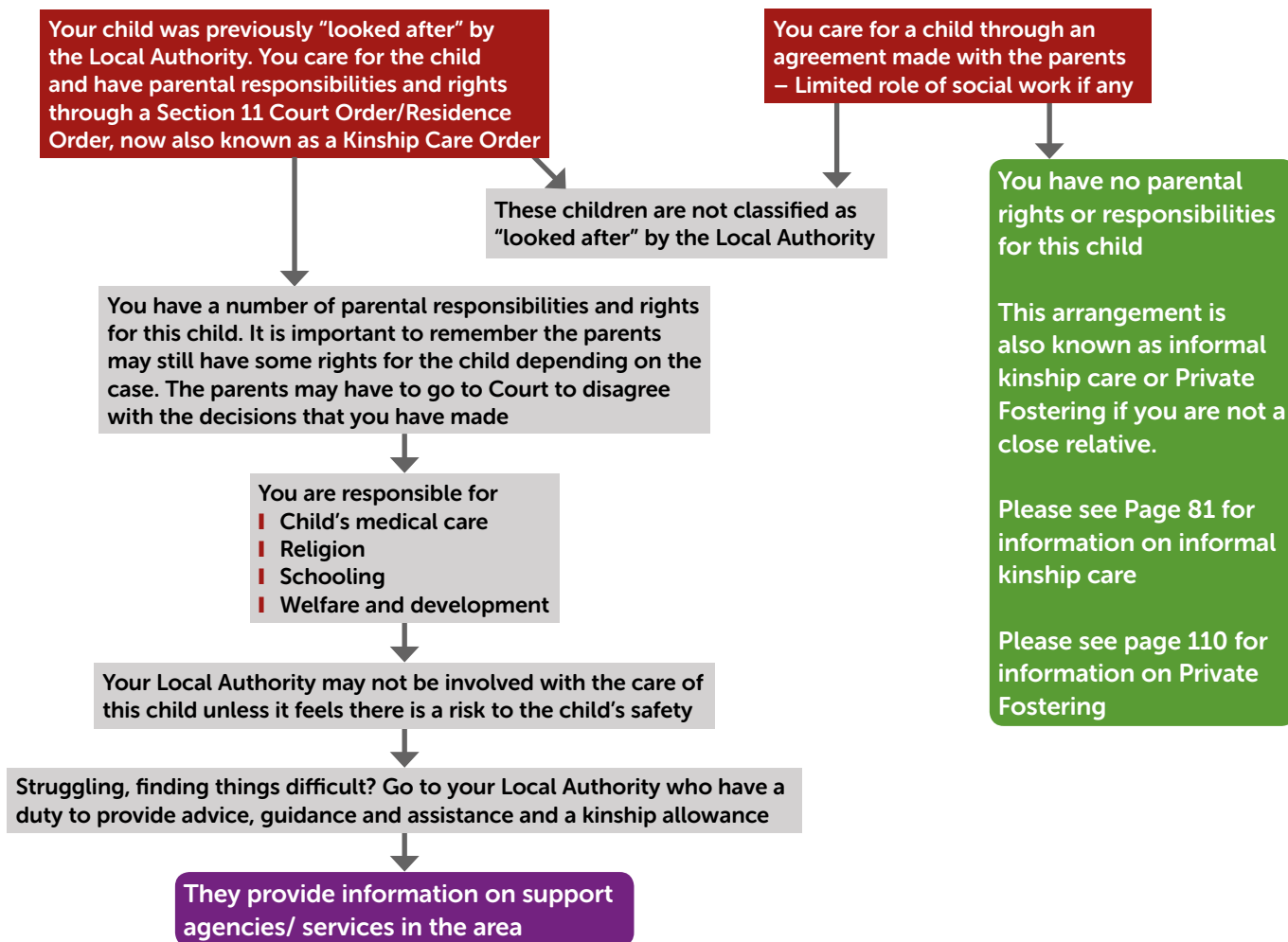
A Kinship Care Order can ensure a more stable home for the child. Having parental responsibilities and rights will allow the kinship carer to make a range of decisions in relation to a child's day to day life. Such as:

- Consent to a child's medical procedures
- Obtain a passport for the child
- Be responsible for their property

Once a Kinship Care Order has been granted the child is no longer looked after by a Local Authority. Where a child's wellbeing need has been identified that support will be given through means of support available to all children. If the child has a specific need to meet their wellbeing need a Child's Plan will be developed and a lead professional identified.

An order will continue until the child is 16 years where it is felt a child will be able to decide their own place of residence. In exceptional circumstances an order may continue past 16 years.

## Being Non Looked After



# Kinship Care Assistance

## The Kinship Care Assistance (Scotland) Order 2016

You have now obtained parental responsibilities and rights for a child.

A Local Authority must provide kinship care assistance so as to safeguard, support and promote the wellbeing of that child. The assistance is available to both the adult and child.

**As the child was previously “looked after” by a Local Authority you are still entitled to support, guidance and a Kinship Care Allowance.**

- I This support will come from the Local Authority that “looked after” the child (this may be different from the Local Authority where you are living)**
- I This support should be transferred to the Local Authority that is responsible for the area in which you live (please check with your local authority)**
- I You should work with the Local Authority to set out their role and responsibilities in caring for the child. This can be challenging if it involves a child moving from England to Scotland as the range of practice and terminology can be very confusing**

## Types of Kinship Care Assistance

### Advice and Information –

Where you have obtained a Kinship Care Order kinship carers may require information and advice on a wide range of matters related to caring for the children such as;

- I Knowledge of child development**
- I Impact of abuse and neglect**
- I Managing relationships with parents**
- I Supporting children and young people who display emotional and behavioural difficulties**
- I Support in how to talk to children about why they are cared for e.g. bereavement, mental health issues, substance misuse**
- I Concerns about who cares for children in the future**
- I Concern about their wider caring responsibilities**

Third sector organisations and local support groups can provide a lot of information, support and advice around these issues. Please go to section 5 to find a list of national and local support networks.

## Kinship Care Assistance continued

A child, under the age of 16 and subject to a Kinship Care Order may also access kinship assistance through information and advice in order to assist them through the transition to having a Kinship Care Order. This type of assistance may be provided up to the age of 18 and includes such support as;

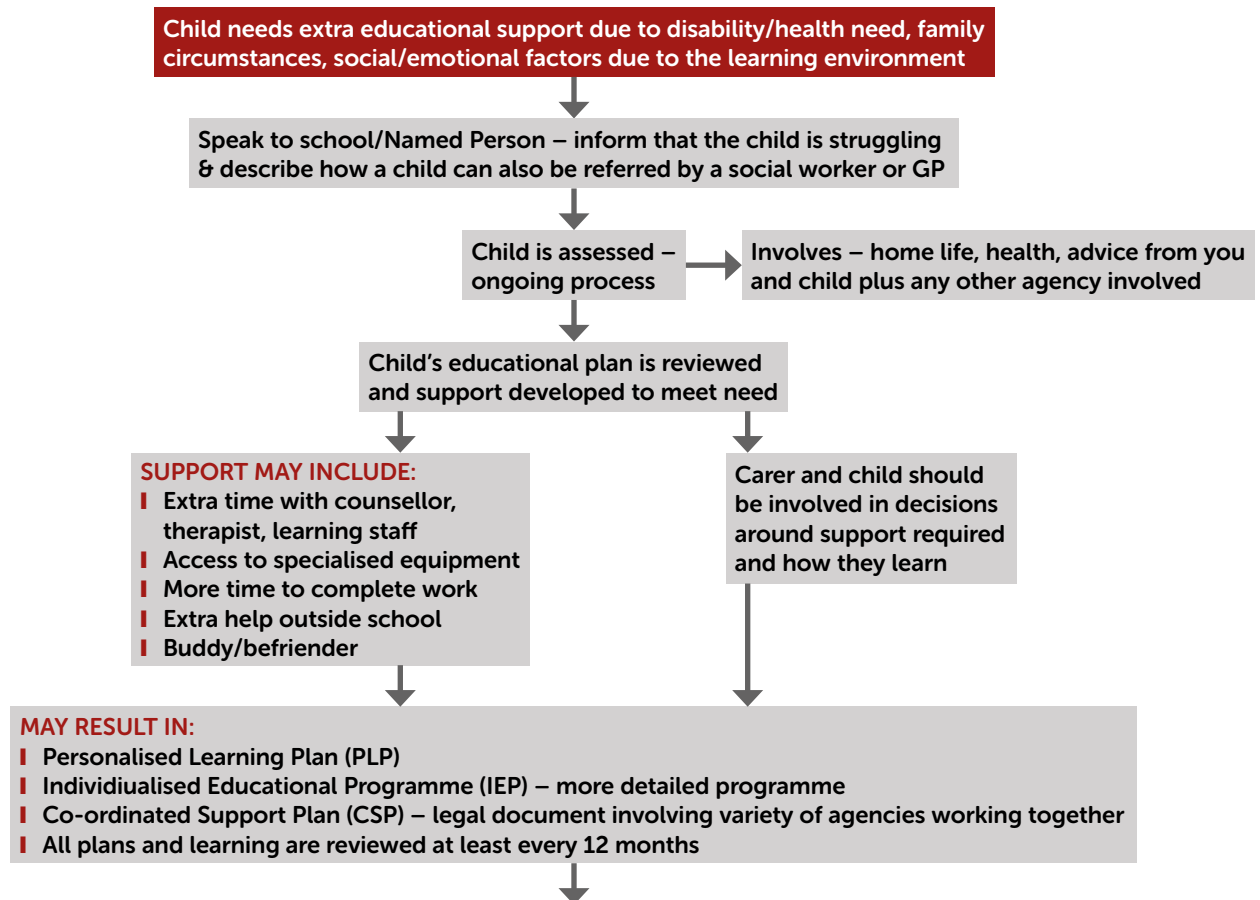
- Understanding the reason why they are cared for by their kinship carer or guardian
- Supporting contact with parents and siblings
- The need to reduce stigma by having opportunities to meet other children being cared for
- Access to befriending or mentoring opportunities
- Additional support at school especially if they have experienced disrupted education
- Knowledge of access to advocacy services

Some children who have experienced abuse or trauma may require access to therapeutic support services. This wellbeing need is unlikely to be met through general children services and so would require a targeted intervention and a Child's Plan.

However the level of information and advice will vary from child to child. To assess this a Local Authority must look at the age, maturity and communication needs of the child. All children must have equal opportunities to access advice and information.

# Additional Support for Learning

According to the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004/2009, every child in Scotland should receive extra support in school if required.



CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE...

## Additional Support for Learning continued



### TRANSITION TO DIFFERENT SCHOOL OR LEAVING SCHOOL:

- School will help to plan what is next – at least 12 months in advance
- School will work with carer, child and other appropriate professionals i.e. college, social worker to ensure needs are met
- Transition meetings – allow young person to talk about options. An advocate can attend to support



If unhappy about any support, contact school in the first instance then the education authority. If still unhappy, contact Enquire for further options

For further detailed advice and information – please contact Enquire, you can find their details on page 116

# Your Legal Responsibilities and Rights

A child is born

Mother has full parental responsibilities and rights

Father has responsibilities and rights if:

- 1) He is married to the mother
  - 2) He is named on the child's birth certificate (since 4 May 2006)
  - 3) Mother can grant rights to father through a Parental Responsibilities and Parental Rights Agreement
  - 4) The father can apply to the Courts to be granted parental responsibilities and rights
- Both have a legal responsibility to keep the child safe and promote their health, development and welfare through direction and guidance.
  - They act as the child's legal representative

## Responsibilities of Carer with a Section 11 (Kinship Care Order)

- You have gone to Court and obtained some or all parental responsibilities and rights through a Section 11 (1) of The Children (Scotland) Act 1995, also known as a Kinship Care Order)
- A Residence Order as part of the Order can be also be issued which states who the child should live with
- The child may no longer be classed as a "looked after" child (there may be an exception if the child was under a supervision requirement)
- The child is now your responsibility
- You must safeguard and promote the child's health, development and welfare through direction and guidance
- You may act as the child's legal representative

If and when a child is ill and may need to go into hospital, carers need to be aware of the healthcare rights, needs and issues relating to the child in their care. Please visit Action for Sick Children (Scotland) for further information. Details can be found in Section 5.

## Your Legal Responsibilities and Rights continued

- Under S11 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 the Court can also grant a contact order

### Contact Order

This order regulates the arrangements for maintaining personal relations and direct contact with a child and a parent or others such as grandparent, aunt, uncle, siblings etc. Depending on the age of the child, his/her views will be considered by the court.

This may allow the parents of the child or other family members to maintain contact.

- As this is an order of the Court you have to observe it

**When kinship carers obtain a Section 11 from the Court you must confirm with the Court what parental responsibilities and rights you will have. This order will not provide consent to adopt the child.**

**On some occasions the parents may still have some responsibilities and rights over the child. If they do they can interfere with the decisions you make about that child. This may mean that you have to return to Court.**

**This can be a very distressing experience and expensive for you**





# Benefit Information

**You now have parental responsibilities and rights for the child in your care.**

**You may still receive payments from the Local Authority to care for this child**

It is **IMPORTANT** to understand that when you gain parental responsibilities and rights for a child, this may affect your Social Security benefit or Tax Credit that you receive. Once you gain these rights, if the child was previously “Looked After” by the local authority, they will no longer be “Looked After” but you are still entitled to receive Kinship Care Allowance. Your tax credits may be impacted by this change in circumstances.

When contacting your CAB for advice they will ask you key questions in order to work out your entitlements.

## QUESTION 1:

**They will ask you if you are caring for a ‘looked after’ or ‘non looked after’ child.**

## ANSWER:

You have chosen the ‘non-looked after’ section of the guide. If you are not sure that the child you care for is ‘not looked after’, go back and have another look at the flowchart on page 26 (What kind of kinship carer are you?) or speak to your social worker or CAB advisor about it.

## QUESTION 2:

**The advisor will then want to know if you are receiving any kinship care payments from your Local Authority.**

## ANSWER:

**If so, they will want to know what section of legislation the Local Authority is using to make the payment. Please select from the two possible sections below.**

### SECTION

**Section 22** of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995

**Section 50** of the Children Act 1975

You should always inform the relevant authorities of any change to your circumstances.

**Every situation is different and you should always ask for advice which is relevant to your own circumstances.**

**At any time you are unsure or confused about your benefit entitlements please contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau. For more details see [www.cas.org.uk](http://www.cas.org.uk)**

# Benefit Entitlements for a “Non Looked After” Child

You may still receive some financial support from your Local Authority because you are a kinship carer

For people caring for a “non looked after” child there are three issues that arise in relation to other benefits:

- 1) Who can claim
- 2) Some delays in getting benefits sorted out
- 3) How your Local Authority payments (if being made) affect your benefit/tax credits

THE BENEFIT	WHAT IT MEANS	CONTACT DETAILS OF AWARDING BODY
Kinship Care Allowance	This is currently paid to kinship carers of non-looked after children who were previously “looked after”, were placed with the kinship carer with the involvement of social work, or are at risk of becoming “looked after” and are now subject to a Kinship Care Order under Section 11 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 (sometimes referred to as a Residence Order). This should be paid at the same rate as the local fostering allowance, with any entitlement to Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit deducted. The Local Authority should not deduct from the kinship care payment any disability element paid as part of Child Tax Credit payments for a child with a disability.	Local Authority
Child Benefit (CB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Only one person can get CB for a particular child. If the child is living with you full-time, you are likely to be entitled to CB.</li><li>If someone else has been getting CB for the child when you make your claim, you will normally not become entitled to CB until three weeks after you make your claim.</li><li>Make your claim for CB as soon as possible as some cases are taking many months to process.</li><li>Kinship Care Allowance payments from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of CB you receive.</li></ul>	HM Revenue and Customs PO Box 1 Newcastle Upon Tyne NE88 1AA T: 0300 200 3100

CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE...

## Benefit Entitlements for a “Non Looked After” Child continued

THE BENEFIT	WHAT IT MEANS	CONTACT DETAILS OF AWARDING BODY
<b>Child Tax Credit (CTC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only one person can get CTC for a particular child. If the child is living with you, you are likely to be entitled to CTC.</li> <li>The amount you receive is dependent on your income and other circumstances.</li> <li>Kinship Care Allowance payments from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of CTC you receive.</li> </ul>	HM Revenue and Customs (Tax Credits) Tax Credit Office Preston PR1 0SB <a href="http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits">www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits</a> T: 0345 300 3900
<b>Working Tax Credit (WTC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligibility and amount of benefit are dependent on your income, the number of hours you work and other circumstances.</li> <li>If you are responsible for a child, your WTC payments might increase if you have to pay childcare costs.</li> <li>Kinship Care Allowance payments from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of WTC you receive.</li> </ul>	As above (HM Revenue and Customs, Preston)
<b>Income Support and Income based JSA (IS/IBJSA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligibility will depend on your income, savings and other circumstances. You may claim IS as a lone parent if you are caring for a child under five.</li> <li>In almost all situations payments of Kinship Care Allowance from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of IS/IBJSA you receive: the exception is if you are still getting amounts in your IS/IBJSA for a child and the Local Authority is paying you Kinship Care Allowance from S50 of the Children Act 1975. In this case, your Kinship Care Allowance will reduce your IS/IBJSA payments.</li> <li>Seek advice about claiming CTC instead of IS/IBJSA as you might be better off.</li> </ul>	Department for Work and Pensions <a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk">www.dwp.gov.uk</a>
<b>Housing Benefit/ Council Tax Reduction (HB/CTR)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligibility will depend on your income, savings and other circumstances such as the number of children you are caring for.</li> <li>Kinship Care Allowance payments from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of HB/CTR you receive.</li> </ul>	Local Authority

CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE...

## Benefit Entitlements for a “Non Looked After” Child continued

THE BENEFIT	WHAT IT MEANS	CONTACT DETAILS OF AWARDING BODY
Pension Credit (PC)	Local Authority payments will not affect your PC.	The Pension Service <b><a href="http://www.pensionservice.gov.uk">www.pensionservice.gov.uk</a></b> T: 0800 99 1234 Textphone: 0800 169 0133
Disability Living Allowance (DLA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a child has a disability and is entitled to DLA, payments are made to the child's appointee. A kinship carer can apply to be the appointee for a child they care for.</li> <li>The amount of DLA paid depends on the nature of the disability.</li> <li>Kinship Care Allowance payments from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of DLA received.</li> </ul> <p><b>The kinship carer may be able to claim Carer's Allowance if the child gets DLA care component middle or highest rate.</b></p>	Benefit Enquiry Line T: 0345 712 3456 Textphone: 0345 722 4433
Employment & Support Allowance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligibility will depend on your income, savings, health and other circumstances.</li> <li>Kinship Care Allowance payments from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of ESA you receive.</li> </ul>	Department for Work and Pensions <b><a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk">www.dwp.gov.uk</a></b> T: 0800 055 6688 Textphone: 0800 023 4888
Scottish Welfare Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You may be able to claim for emergency or particular needs through a crisis grant or a community care grant.</li> </ul>	Local Authority

**WE ADVISE THAT YOU ALWAYS CHECK YOUR LOCAL CAB OFFICE AND/OR LOCAL AUTHORITY FOR ADVICE**

## Case Studies

The following case studies are examples. Please note that not all Local Authorities pay in the same way. Always check with the appropriate body as listed on the previous pages.

### George

George is a thirty year old man who works full time and lives in a rented flat. He receives:

- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax reduction
- Working Tax Credit

He takes over caring for his fourteen year old brother Malcolm, and is awarded a Kinship Care Order through a Section 11 (i) Residence Order by the court. Malcolm is a 'non looked after' child.

Now George receives:

- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit – paid at a higher rate as he is now responsible for Malcolm
- Council Tax reduction – paid at a higher rate as he is now responsible for Malcolm
- Working Tax Credit – paid at a higher rate as he is now a lone parent and can claim some childcare costs

George receives a payment from the Local Authority as part of kinship care assistance.

## Case Studies continued

### Anne

Anne is a 68 year old widowed pensioner. She lives in rented accommodation and has savings of £15,500. She receives:

- A state pension and an occupational pension

Anne agrees to look after her two grandchildren Alfie and Joe. She applies to the court for a Section 11 Residence Order. This is awarded and Alfie and Joe become 'non looked after' children.

Now Anne receives:

- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax reduction
- Her state pension and occupational pension, as before

Anne receives a payment from the Local Authority as part of kinship care assistance.

# Universal Credit

Universal Credit (UC) has started to replace means-tested benefits and tax credits. Eventually the following benefits and tax credits will be replaced by Universal Credit:

- Income Support
- Income-based JSA
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit

## Child element

UC can include an amount for dependent children, called the child element. Kinship carers of anon-looked after children will have the child element included in their UC.

## Housing costs element

UC can include a housing costs element to help with rent or mortgage interest. If the claimant lives in rented accommodation the amount of the housing costs element is based on how many bedrooms they are deemed to need (the 'size criteria'). Non looked after children in kinship care "count" and so are included in the size criteria.

## Childcare costs element

If the claimant is working, UC can include a childcare costs element for a dependent child or children. A non-looked after child in kinship care counts as a dependent child.

## Work allowance

The 'work allowance' is an amount that some UC claimants are allowed to earn before their earnings start affecting the amount of UC they get. Only claimants with a dependent child or children or who have 'limited capability for work' get a work allowance. A non-looked after child in kinship care counts as a dependent child.

## Treatment of Local Authority payments

Any payment made by the Local Authority should be disregarded as income for Universal Credit.

For developments in Universal Credit please visit [www.kinship.scot](http://www.kinship.scot) for more information



# Notes





SECTION 4:  
**INFORMAL KINSHIP CARERS**



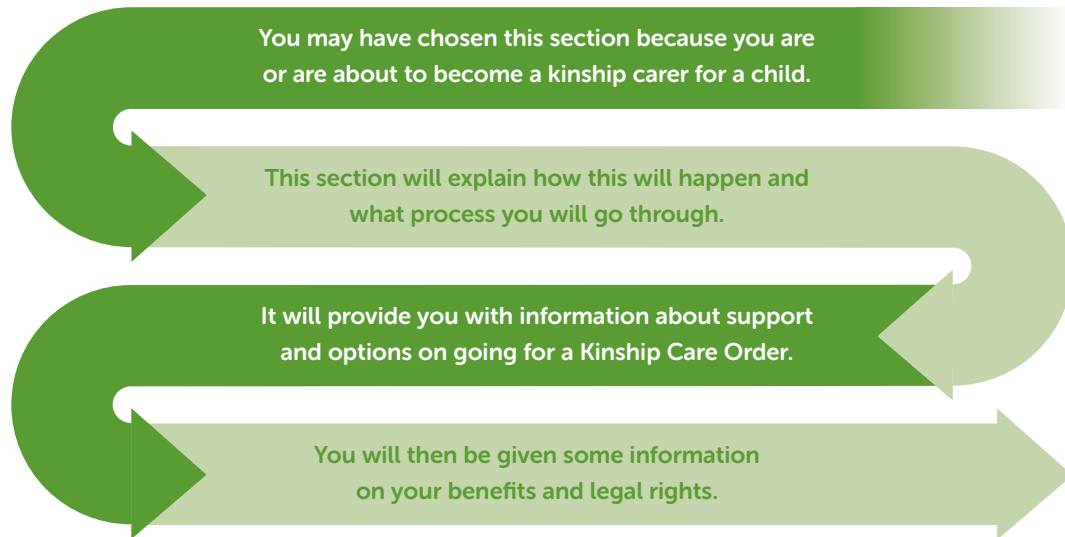
I have lived with my nana since I was a baby because my mummy was bad. She used to come and see me but she doesn't anymore because she is bad again. I hope I am not bad but my nana says I am not, that I am a good boy, I like being good.

I love my nana lots and lots and lots. I have a blue room with rockets on the wall. My room has lots of toys, I love my room. My favourite toy is my football. My nana takes me to the park to kick my ball. I run and run and run and then I get juice and go home. I want to be a footballer when I am older.

Boy aged 6

# About Informal Kinship Carers

Welcome! You have chosen the section for informal kinship care arrangements.



Please find a list of support agencies in Section 5 of the guide if at any time you need help when caring for a child. Please also visit [www.kinship.scot](http://www.kinship.scot) for further information and updates

## Case Study

### Marlene

Marlene is a 70 year old pensioner and a kinship carer who looks after her 9 year old grandson Paul.

When her son Simon was made redundant things went downhill for him rapidly, culminating in Marlene's discovery that he and his wife Suzi were using drugs. Marlene was particularly concerned about Paul as he would shout and scream when it was time to go home from his grandparents.

In December 2001 Simon begged his mum to look after Paul as he realised he and Suzi couldn't cope. "Give us a few months to get back on our feet and then we will take him back." Marlene agreed to look after Paul with the belief that it would be for a short time and then Paul could return home.

Then a day later, double tragedy: Simon died from a heroin overdose and Suzi killed herself. Now Paul had no-one except his grandparents.

Marlene was utterly unprepared for her new role. She had no clothes, furniture or room for Paul. The strain of looking after him was considerable. She became depressed and tired. As he grew up, it was clear that Paul had issues – he would hit out at Marlene, cry and wet the bed. Marlene didn't know what to do or who to turn to. She needed help but didn't want to go to her friends as she was too ashamed of how badly things had turned out.

Then one day while taking Paul to the dentist she noticed a poster on the wall from her local children and families social

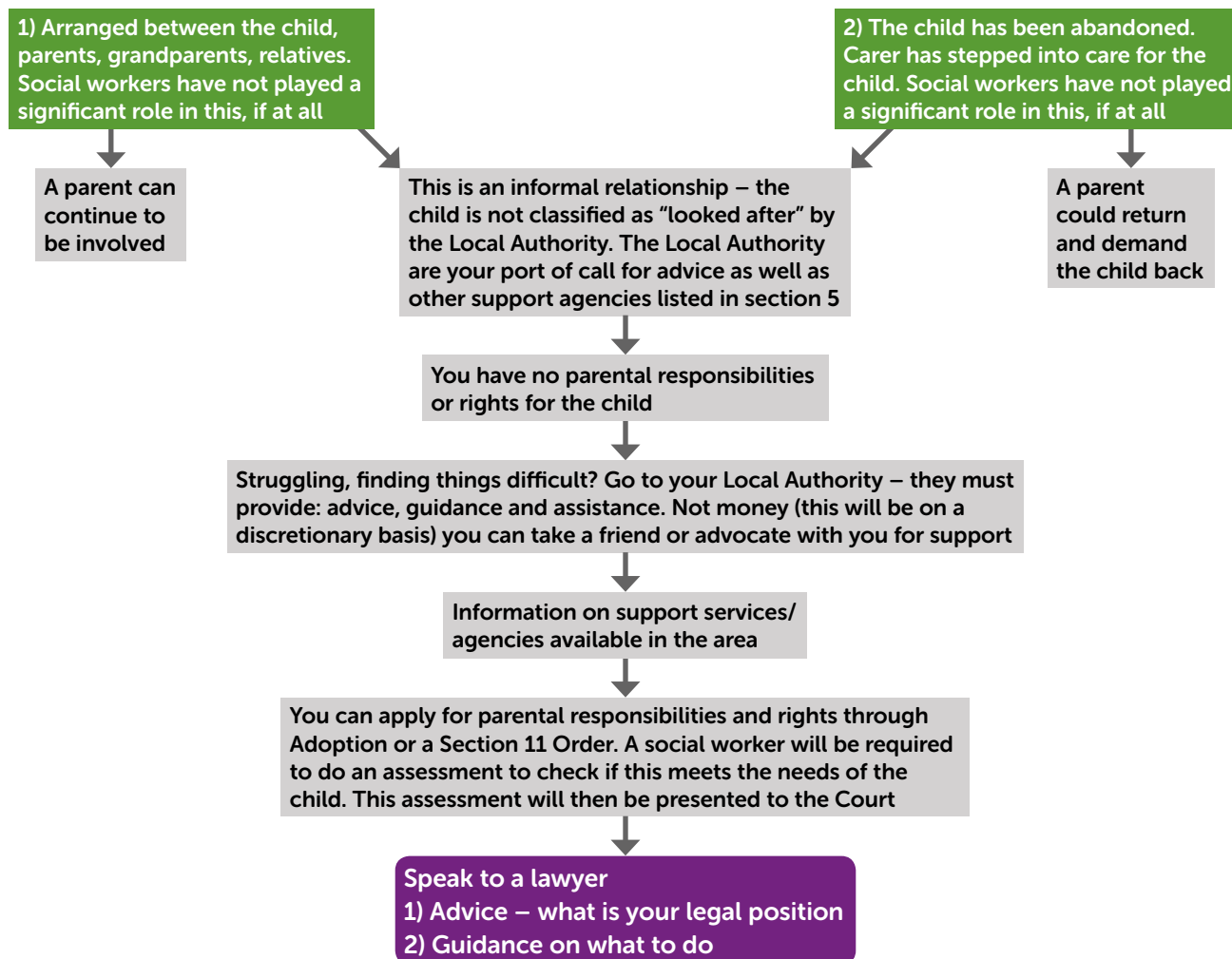
work team. Of course, why had she never thought of them before? But then she panicked, what if they would try and take Paul away, should she have contacted them when Simon and Suzi died, would they think that she should not be looking after Paul?

Finally Marlene decided that she had to seek help and visited her local social work office. She found that they were helpful and although they couldn't offer her concentrated support, as Paul was not classed as "looked after", they informed her that they would try and offer support as Paul could be classed as a "child in need". They also provided her with names of support groups which they said might help.

On the day of her first meeting at the support group she was at the end of her tether because of Paul's behaviour. She said nothing at first but sat back and listened, tears running down her face. For the first time in nine years Marlene could tell her story. She left a new woman, ready to face life again.

Marlene has become a committed member of the group. Paul still has problems but Marlene is more confident in challenging him and helping him to deal with them. She is determined to help others in the same situation and regularly supports other kinship carers so that they do not have to go through the same traumas as she did.

## Being Informal



# Children in Need

Some children live with relatives on an informal basis. Many carers manage without support from social work and other services, however many in this situation may require assistance.

These are children who are particularly vulnerable due to:

- Previous family circumstances
- Suffered bereavement or loss
- Their carer is elderly or in poor health
- Child is disabled or affected by disability

■ These are children who may require greater than average help and support in school or through Health Services.

■ The carers of these children may require greater than average advice and support because of the length of time since they previously parented or because they have never parented

## STEP 1

■ Contact your Local Authority about your concerns

## STEP 2

■ You will meet with a member of social work services who will discuss and review your position. There could also be concerns about the child's health or school

## STEP 3

- A plan should be drawn up by you and the social worker to highlight what needs are to be met and put in place. This will include:
- What services will be provided
  - How long these services should last
  - What they hope will be achieved through this provision of service
  - What the role of the carer, the social services and the service will be

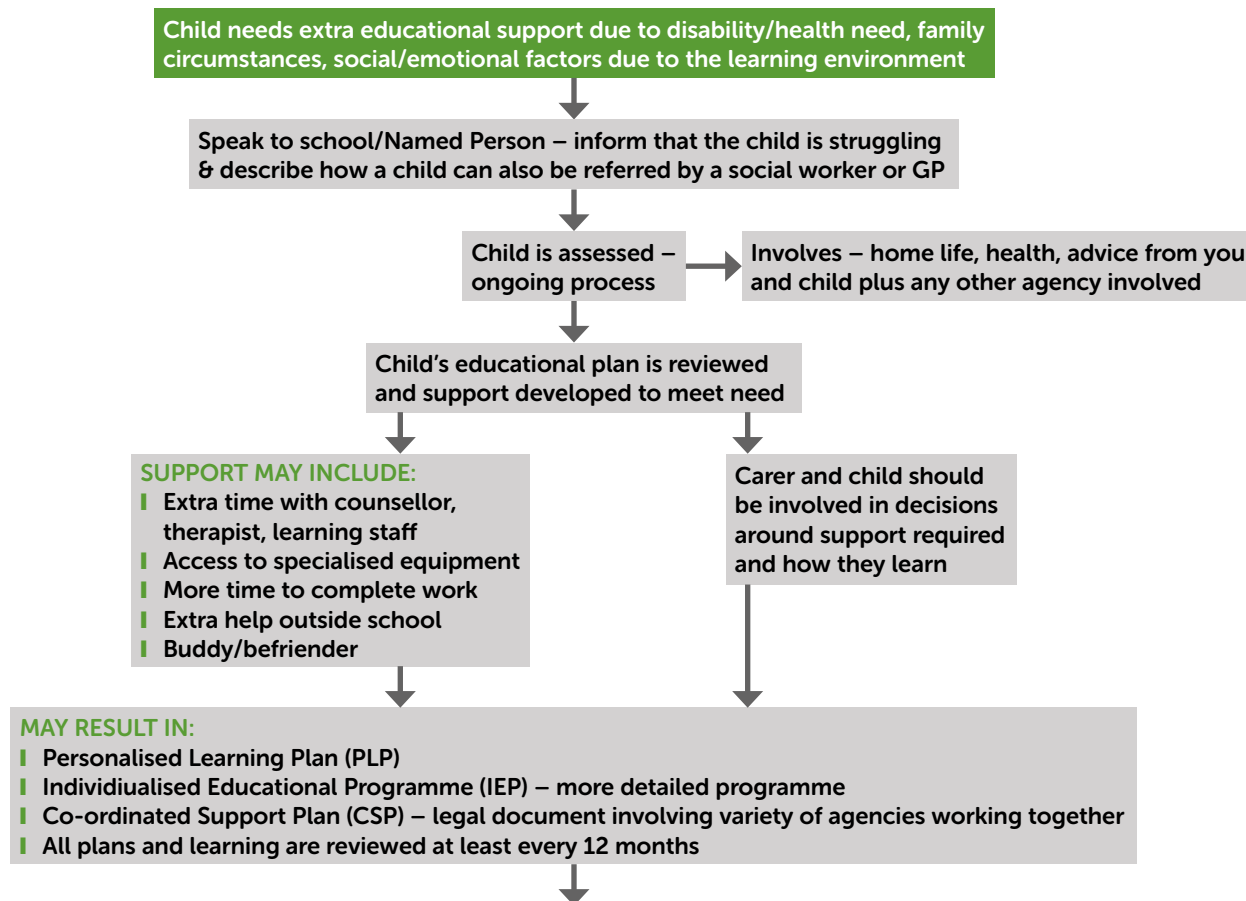
## STEP 4

- You may receive:
- Advice, guidance and support – i.e. counselling
  - Help at home – regular visits or assistance through home help
  - Day care – childcare through nursery
  - Respite – day trips, holidays
  - Community services – bringing the family together through activities
  - Financial help or advice – cash payments (discretionary)

**Your Local Authority may be able to offer you financial support so please contact them. Do not be afraid to ask for help**

## Additional Support for Learning

According to the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004/2009, every child in Scotland should receive extra support in school if required.





## Additional Support for Learning continued



### TRANSITION TO DIFFERENT SCHOOL OR LEAVING SCHOOL:

- | School will help to plan what is next – at least 12 months in advance
- | School will work with carer, child and other appropriate professionals i.e. college, social worker to ensure needs are met
- | Transition meetings – allow young person to talk about options. An advocate can attend to support



If unhappy about any support, contact school in the first instance then the education authority. If still unhappy, contact Enquire for further options

For further detailed advice and information – please contact Enquire, you can find their details on page 116

# Your Legal Responsibilities and Rights

A child is born. Mother has full parental responsibilities and rights.

Father has responsibilities and rights if:

- 1) He is married to the mother
- 2) He is named on the child's birth certificate (since 4 May 2006)
- 3) Mother can grant rights to father through Parental Responsibilities and Parental Rights Agreement
- 4) The father can apply to be granted parental responsibilities and rights

- Both have a legal responsibility to keep the child safe and promote their health, development and welfare through direction and guidance
- They act as the child's legal representative

## Your rights as an informal kinship carer

If an agreement has been made between you and the parents:

- The parents retain full legal responsibilities and rights of the child
- You as a carer have a duty to safeguard and promote the health and development of the child's welfare through direction and guidance
- You are entitled to support and guidance from the Local Authority in your area

## Potential Problems

- A parent must consent to any decisions you wish to make and so can intervene at any time.
- You cannot make major decisions about the child's health, schooling or travel
- A parent can return at any time and demand the return of the child
- You as a carer will not have rights to attend meetings about the child's welfare

If and when a child is ill and may need to go into hospital, carers need to be aware of the healthcare rights, needs and issues relating to the child in their care. Please visit Action for Sick Children (Scotland) for further information. Details can be found in Section 5.

## Solutions

- If the child is not going to return to the parents you may apply for some parental responsibilities and rights at Court through a Section 11 (1) Order, now also known as a Kinship Care Order. You can contact your Local Authority or support services listed in section 5 for advice/support.

The child's views should be sought at all times. You can contact your Local Authority for advice and support.

# Seeking Parental Responsibilities and Rights

We strongly recommend you seek advice before seeking an order from the Court. This advice could be from the Citizens Advice Bureau, a law centre or a solicitor. If you need a solicitor's advice you may be eligible for Legal Aid.

## Would you like more of a say over decisions about the child in your care?

When caring for a child through an informal arrangement you have no rights on how that child is brought up

- The child's parents still have all parental responsibilities and rights

## If you would like to have more of a say over the child in your care you will:

- Have to go to Court to apply for some or all parental responsibilities and rights
- This is known as a Section 11 (1) Order which once obtained can also be called a Kinship Care Order

## So why would you like to do this?

Here are some advantages and disadvantages of obtaining some or all parental responsibilities and rights:

### ADVANTAGES OF HAVING A KINSHIP CARE ORDER

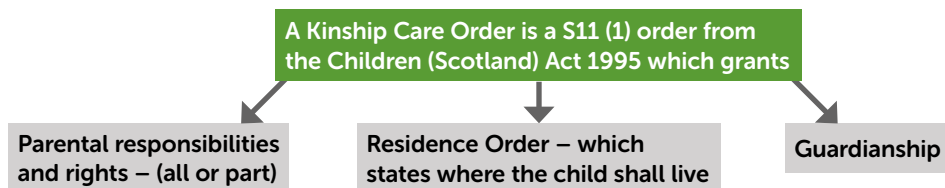
- The birth parents will have reduced rights for the child depending on court decision
- You can apply for a passport and take the child out of the country
- You can consent to all medical and dental treatment
- You can have a say on what happens to the child's money or property
- You can make decisions on where or how the child is schooled
- You can consent to educational and other support for the child
- Disciplining the child
- Choosing the religion for the child
- Agreeing to the renaming of the child
- Allowing confidential information to be disclosed about the child
- It gives a greater sense of security for the child, a feeling that they belong

### DISADVANTAGES OF NOT HAVING A KINSHIP CARE ORDER

- You cannot apply for a passport for the child
- You need permission to take child away
- You cannot consent to medical treatment
- You do not have any say over the child's money or property
- You cannot decide where the child is schooled
- You may not be consulted about the child's right to educational and other support
- You cannot appeal against any decisions made about the child unless deemed a "relevant person"
- Local Authority or parents will have the overall say

# Applying for a Kinship Care Order

Information regarding a Kinship Care Order and kinship care assistance can be found in Part 13 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Kinship Care Assistance (Scotland) Order 2016.



To receive a Kinship Care Order you must be a person who:

- Is related to the child
- Is a friend/acquaintance of a person who is related to the child
- Has a relationship or connection to the child

A parent does not apply.

In some cases a parent will retain some parental responsibilities and rights for the children which can have an impact on the child and the carer. The Local Authority must provide information and advice to those seeking, holding or subject to a Kinship Care Order.

A Kinship Care Order can ensure a more stable home for the child. Having parental responsibilities and rights will allow the kinship carer to make a range of decisions in relation to a child's day to day life. Such as:

- Consent to a child's medical procedures
- Obtain a passport for the child
- Be responsible for their property

An order will continue until the child is 16 years where it is felt a child will be able to decide their own place of residence. In exceptional circumstances an order may continue past 16 years.

# Kinship Care Assistance

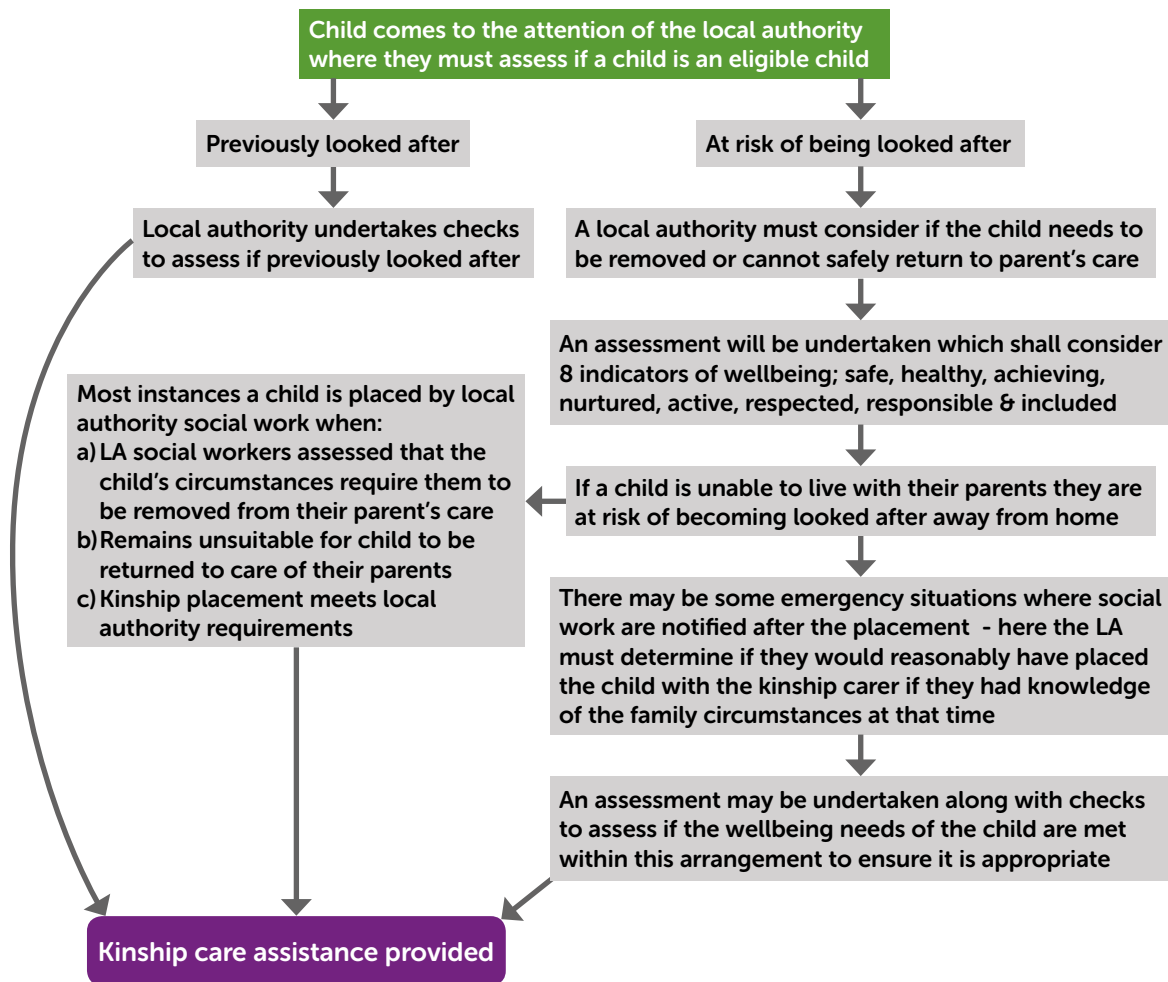
A Local Authority must provide kinship care assistance so as to safeguard, support and promote the wellbeing of an eligible child. It is available to;

- An adult who applies for, considers applying for or has obtained a Kinship Care Order for a child under 16
- A guardian of a child under 16.
- A child of 16 years or under who is subject to a Kinship Care Order or has an appointed guardian

An eligible child is a child who the Local Authority considers to be at risk of being looked after or a child who was previously looked after.

Local authorities must determine if a child is an eligible child when the child comes to the attention of the social work service. They will be able to determine if the child was previously looked after. To determine if a child is at risk of becoming looked after the local authority must consider if the child's circumstances would require them to be removed from the family home or that they could not safely return there.

## Kinship Care Assistance continued



# Types of Kinship Care Assistance

## Advice and Information

Where a person is considering applying for or is applying for a Kinship Care Order they must be provided with appropriate information and advice which will enable them to make a decision on obtaining a Kinship Care Order. This should include:

- What is a Kinship Care Order
- Benefits and limitations of a Kinship Care Order
- How to find and instruct a solicitor
- How to apply for legal aid
- How to apply to the Local Authority for financial support to pay toward the costs of an order
- What happens at a hearing at the Sheriff Court
- How the child's, parents' and kinship carer's views are considered by the court
- What happens when a Kinship Care Order is granted
- What may happen if it is not granted
- Complaint procedures
- Details of local and national advice and support networks

Going to Court can be an emotional and challenging time for the family. Some kinship carers may face divided loyalties in taking court action for parental responsibilities and rights from parents particularly when they may be their own children or younger siblings. You need to speak to someone to discuss the full implications of this decision. You can speak to your social worker or alternatively look at Section 4 to find a list of national and local support networks

## Financial Allowances

Kinship care arrangements can cause significant financial impact on a family. Financial circumstances change due to caring responsibilities, employability may be affected and so may the long term stability of the placement.

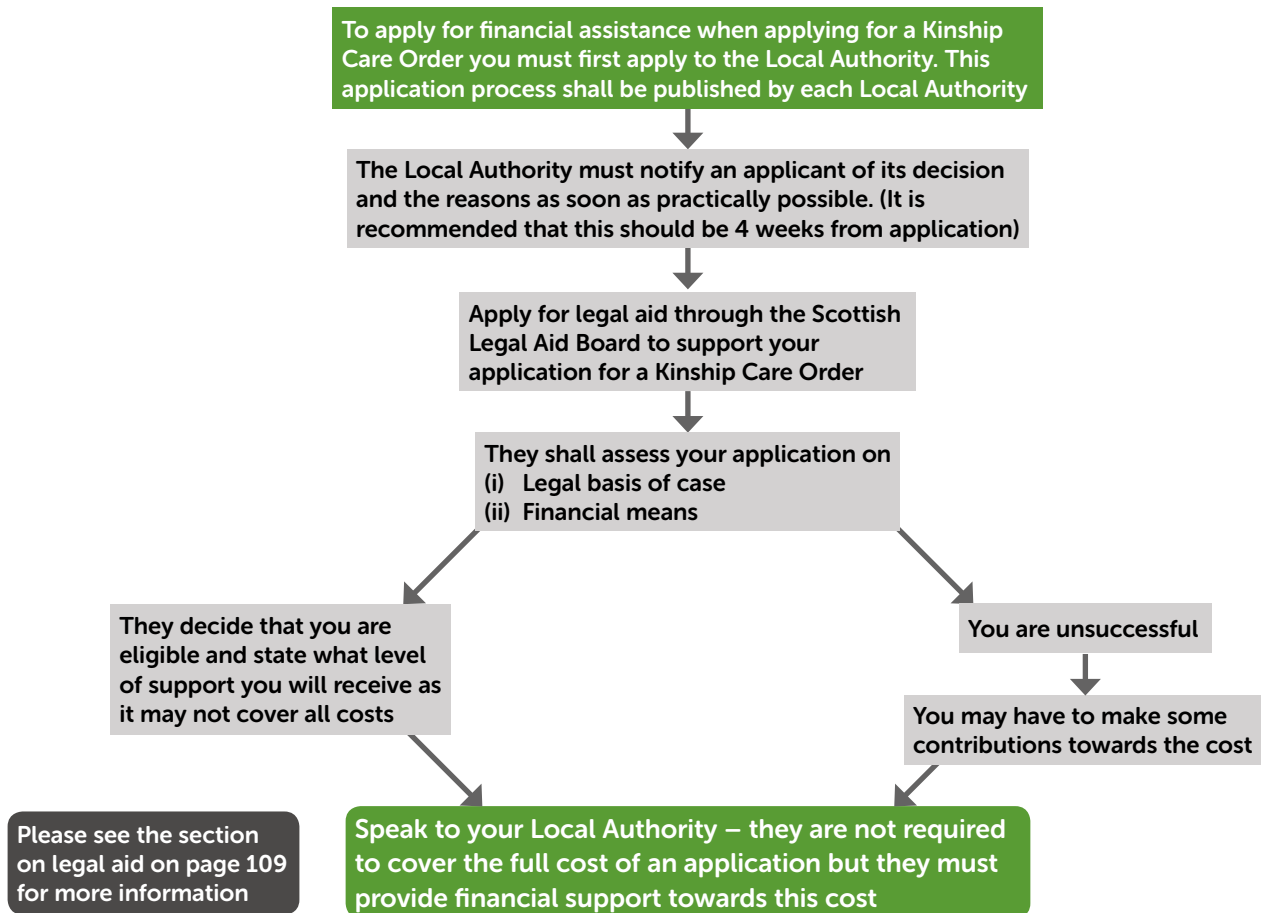
Child benefit and child tax credits are intended to cover the cost of accommodation and maintenance of a child however we advise kinship carers to do a benefits check to ensure that they are fully aware of all benefits that they may be entitled to. Additional costs do arise in caring for a child such as travel costs related to family contact and a financial allowance is intended to help with these costs.

Kinship care assistance can then include a financial allowance for;

- Someone who has obtained a Kinship Care Order for an eligible child
- An appointed guardian of an eligible child
- A child who is now 16 and had a Kinship Care Order immediately before turning 16 and/or
- An eligible child
- An eligible child who has an appointed guardian

## Types of Kinship Care Assistance continued

The Kinship Care Assistance (Scotland) Order 2016 includes the provision of financial support when applying for a Kinship Care Order.





# Benefit Information

**If you are caring for a child whose parents belong to another Local Authority, that Local Authority is responsible for the care of that child.**

**If you require support or assistance then you must contact that Local Authority**

**It is important to be aware of cross boundary issues where Local Authorities do not follow the same procedures in kinship care arrangements and this can therefore be very confusing for you. Please contact your own Local Authority for advice**

It is really important that you understand that when caring for a child there are certain steps you must take in order to receive financial benefits to help you care for that child.

Every situation is different and you should always ask advice which is relevant to your own circumstances.

When a child comes to live with you it is important to let the DWP and HMRC know as soon as possible so as the right person claims the benefits and tax credits in respect of the child.



## So...

- If the child is living full-time with you, you should be able to claim the appropriate benefits and tax credits in respect of the child. It is therefore important to be able to show that the child is living with you. This could be by showing who is the main contact or registered address for school or nursery, or for their GP
- Do it as quickly as possible – it can take several months to process the benefit claim if there are any issues
- Means tested benefits are based on your personal circumstances such as your income, savings etc

**Always contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau for advice on what you are entitled to as a kinship carer. For more details see [www.cas.org.uk](http://www.cas.org.uk)**

## Benefit Entitlements for a Child in an Informal Relationship

You are now caring for a child  
You are not being paid a regular allowance from your Local Authority

THE BENEFIT	WHAT IT MEANS	CONTACT DETAILS OF AWARDING BODY
<b>Child Benefit (CB)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only one person can get CB for a particular child. If the child is living with you full-time, you are likely to be entitled to CB.</li> <li>If someone else has been getting CB for the child when you make your claim, you will normally not become entitled to CB until three weeks after you make your claim.</li> <li>Make your claim for CB as soon as possible as some cases are taking many months to process.</li> </ul>	HM Revenue and Customs PO Box 1 Newcastle Upon Tyne NE88 1AA <b>T: 0300 200 3100</b>
<b>Child Tax Credit (CTC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only one person can get CTC for a particular child. If the child is living with you, you are likely to be entitled to CTC.</li> <li>The amount you receive is dependent on your income and other circumstances.</li> </ul>	HM Revenue and Customs (Tax Credits) Tax Credit Office Preston PR1 0SB <a href="http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits">www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits</a> <b>T: 0345 300 3900</b>
<b>Working Tax Credit (WTC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligibility and amount of benefit are dependent on your income, the number of hours you work and other circumstances.</li> <li>If you are responsible for a child, your WTC payments might increase if you have to pay childcare costs.</li> </ul>	As above (HM Revenue and Customs, Preston)
<b>Income Support and Income based JSA (IS/IBJSA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligibility will depend on your income, savings and other circumstances. You may claim IS as a lone parent if you are caring for a child under five.</li> </ul>	Department for Work and Pensions <b>T: 0800 055 6688</b> <b>Textphone: 0800 023 4888</b> <a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk">www.dwp.gov.uk</a>

CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE...

## Benefit Entitlements for a Child in an Informal Relationship

### continued

THE BENEFIT	WHAT IT MEANS	CONTACT DETAILS OF AWARDING BODY
<b>Housing Benefit/ Council Tax Reduction (HB/CTR)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligibility will depend on your income, savings, health and other circumstances such as the number of children you are caring for.</li> </ul>	Local Authority
<b>Pension Credit (PC)</b>	There are no additional payments for a child.	The Pension Service <a href="http://www.pensionservice.gov.uk">www.pensionservice.gov.uk</a> <b>T:</b> 0800 99 1234 <b>Textphone:</b> 0800 169 0133
<b>Employment &amp; Support Allowance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligibility will depend on your income, savings, health and other circumstances.</li> <li>Kinship Care Allowance payments from the Local Authority will not affect the amount of ESA you receive.</li> </ul>	Department for Work and Pensions <a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk">www.dwp.gov.uk</a> <b>T:</b> 0800 055 6688 <b>Textphone:</b> 0800 023 4888
<b>Disability Living allowance (DLA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a child has a disability and is entitled to DLA, payments are made to the child's appointee. A kinship carer can apply to be the appointee for a child they care for.</li> <li>The amount of DLA paid depends on the nature of the disability.  <b>The kinship carer may be able to claim Carer's Allowance if the child gets DLA care component at the middle or highest rate.</b> </li> </ul>	Benefit Enquiry Line <b>T:</b> 0345 712 3456 <b>Textphone:</b> 0345 722 4433
<b>Scottish Welfare Fund</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You may be able to claim for emergency or particular needs through a crisis grant or a community care grant.</li> </ul>	Local Authority

**WE ADVISE THAT YOU ALWAYS CHECK YOUR LOCAL CAB  
OFFICE AND OR LOCAL AUTHORITY FOR ADVICE**

## Case Studies

The following case studies are examples. Please note that not all Local Authorities pay in the same way. Always check with the appropriate body as listed on the previous pages.

### Kevin and Kathryn

Kevin and Kathryn are both in their 70s, living in a flat that they own. They receive:

- Two state pensions and one occupational pension
- Pension Credit
- Council Tax Reduction

They start to look after their two grandchildren, Lauren aged 13 and Jake aged 11, after their mother dies. The children's father is in prison. This is an informal arrangement made by the family so the children are 'non looked after'.

Now Kevin and Kathryn receive:

- Child Benefit, paid for each child
- Child Tax Credit, with amounts paid for each child
- Guardian's Allowance, paid for each child
- Their state pensions and occupational pension, as before
- Pension Credit, as before (the amount of Pension Credit is not affected by the Child Benefit or Guardian's Allowance they now receive)
- Council Tax Reduction

They do not receive:

- Kinship care payments from their Local Authority

## Case Studies continued

### Joan

Joan is a 55 year old single woman who was widowed two years ago. She is unemployed and lives alone. She receives:

- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Reduction

Joan's three year old grandson Billy comes to live with her. This arrangement was made between Joan and Billy's mum, with no social work involvement.

Now Joan receives:

- Income Support (which she can claim on the grounds of being a lone parent)
- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Reduction

Joan does not receive:

- Kinship care payments from her Local Authority

Always contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau for advice on what you are entitled to as a kinship carer. For more details see [www.cas.org.uk](http://www.cas.org.uk)

# Universal Credit

Universal Credit (UC) has started to replace means-tested benefits and tax credits. Eventually the following benefits and tax credits will be replaced by Universal Credit:

- Income Support
- Income-based JSA
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit

## Child element

UC can include an amount for dependent children, called the child element. Kinship carers of a non-looked after child will have the child element included in their UC.

## Housing costs element

UC can include a housing costs element to help with rent or mortgage interest. If the claimant lives in rented accommodation the amount of the housing costs element is based on how many bedrooms they are deemed to need (the 'size criteria'). Non looked after children in kinship care "count" and so are included in the size criteria.

## Childcare costs element

If the claimant is working, UC can include a childcare costs element for a dependent child or children. A non-looked after child in kinship care counts as a dependent child.

## Work allowance

The 'work allowance' is an amount that some UC claimants are allowed to earn before their earnings start affecting the amount of UC they get. Only claimants with a dependent child or children or who have 'limited capability for work' get a work allowance. A non-looked after child in kinship care counts as a dependent child.

## Treatment of Local Authority payments

Any payment made by the Local Authority should be disregarded as income for Universal Credit.

A close-up, high-angle portrait of a young person with light brown hair and numerous freckles. The person is looking directly at the camera with a slight, gentle smile. The lighting is warm and soft, highlighting the texture of their skin and the details of their eyes. The background is out of focus, showing hints of a textured surface.

## SECTION 5: **USEFUL INFORMATION & RESOURCES**

I have a home. I never had a home before. I lived in different places with lots of different people with my dad. Sometimes they were noisy and smelly. But men in uniform came, they were nice to me. They brought me to a place where people called my granny and grandad live. Their house smelled nice. It can still be noisy but only because the tele is loud as grandad is deaf.

I like living here but I sometimes dream that I am still in the smelly houses. The dreams make me scared but my granny and grandad make me better with hugs and cocoa.

Boy aged 7



## Useful Information & Resources

Welcome! You have now come to the section that will provide you with information which may be of benefit to you when you are caring for a child. This section will also provide you with a list of local and national organisations which may support you or the child in your care.

- 1) **Children's Hearing** – this section contains information on the Children's Hearing system. This will explain the reasons why the Children's Hearing will take place and what will or can happen at each stage.
- 2) **Legal Aid** – this section provides you with information on legal aid and how to apply for it.
- 3) **Private Fostering** – this section will inform you about Private Fostering and the implications it can have on someone who cares for a child who is not a relative.
- 4) **Local and National Support Agencies** – this directory will help to direct you to support agencies throughout Scotland. It does not contain an exhaustive list but the agencies should be able to signpost you to appropriate places where you can get help and advice.
- 5) **Kinship Care Support Groups Across Scotland** – this section details a list of kinship care support groups across Scotland which you can contact for help and advice. These can be run through a Local Authority or they may be run independently by kinship carers. These are a valuable resource and can provide fantastic support to all kinship carers.

# Children's Hearings

## What are Children's Hearings?

- I They are meetings which are held to provide help for children who may be having problems in their lives and they may require compulsory measures of supervision

## What are these problems?

A child may have a number of issues such as:

- I The child may suffer harm due to abuse or lack of parental care
- I The parents can't control them
- I Child may be misusing drugs, alcohol or solvents
- I The child may have committed an offence
- I Child may not be attending school
- I The child may be being hurt, either physically or emotionally

## Why does the child go to a Hearing?

- I A referral will be made by someone who has concerns about a child to the Children's Reporter for your area. The Reporter will look at your child's case and will decide if the child needs to attend a Children's Hearing to help address the issues they have. A kinship carer can call for a hearing and can contact the Reporter at any time who may then arrange a Hearing.

## How does the Reporter make the decision to refer your child to a hearing?

- I The Reporter gathers information about the child such as information from school, police, health agencies and details of family circumstances. Usually a social worker will meet the child, parents and/or carers to prepare a Report (known as an IAF Integrated Assessment Report or SBR – a Social Background Report) on the child and their circumstances.
- I The Reporter will consider all the information carefully and will have decided that your child may need compulsory measure of supervision which can be arranged by the Children's Hearing.

## Who can attend?

- I The child, although sometimes the child is excused from attending
- I The parent
- I A relevant person who has responsibility for the child: this is often the carer (a kinship carer needs to be recognised as a relevant person. If they are not then they have no right to attend, receive papers, request reviews and appeal.)
- I The child and the relevant person can attend with a representative who can give them support or help them give their views e.g. minister, teacher
- I If you cannot attend you must notify the Reporter immediately as there may be penalties
- I A legal representative if one has been appointed for the child

## Children's Hearings continued

### What will happen at the hearing?

- At the hearing there are three panel members, a mix of male and female trained volunteers
- There may be social workers or teachers who will be questioned
- The child and relevant persons may be represented by solicitors
- Panel members will have reports from professionals involved with the child, including a Social Background Report written by a social worker. The child (if over 12 years) and the relevant persons will also receive copies of these reports
- The child and relevant person will be called into the Hearing and informed why you are there
- A statement called 'grounds of referral' will be read out to the child and relevant person. Grounds of referral are a legal statement setting out the reasons for the child being referred to a Children's Hearing
- Before a full discussion can take place the relevant person and child need to understand and agree with all or some of the grounds of referral

### What happens if I don't agree with the reasons for the hearing?

- Inform the panel
  - They will stop and decide not to proceed
- Or
- The Reporter will arrange for the case to be heard in front of the Sheriff who will make a decision on whether the grounds of referral have been established and if there should be a hearing

### What happens next?

- If grounds of referral are established the Reporter will convene a hearing on how to proceed
- Discussions will take place with the child and parent or carer
- Sometimes the hearing asks for another report to be written and this will be undertaken by a person called a SAFEGUARDER
- This report will contain recommendations which are presented to the panel
- A decision will then be made about how to proceed

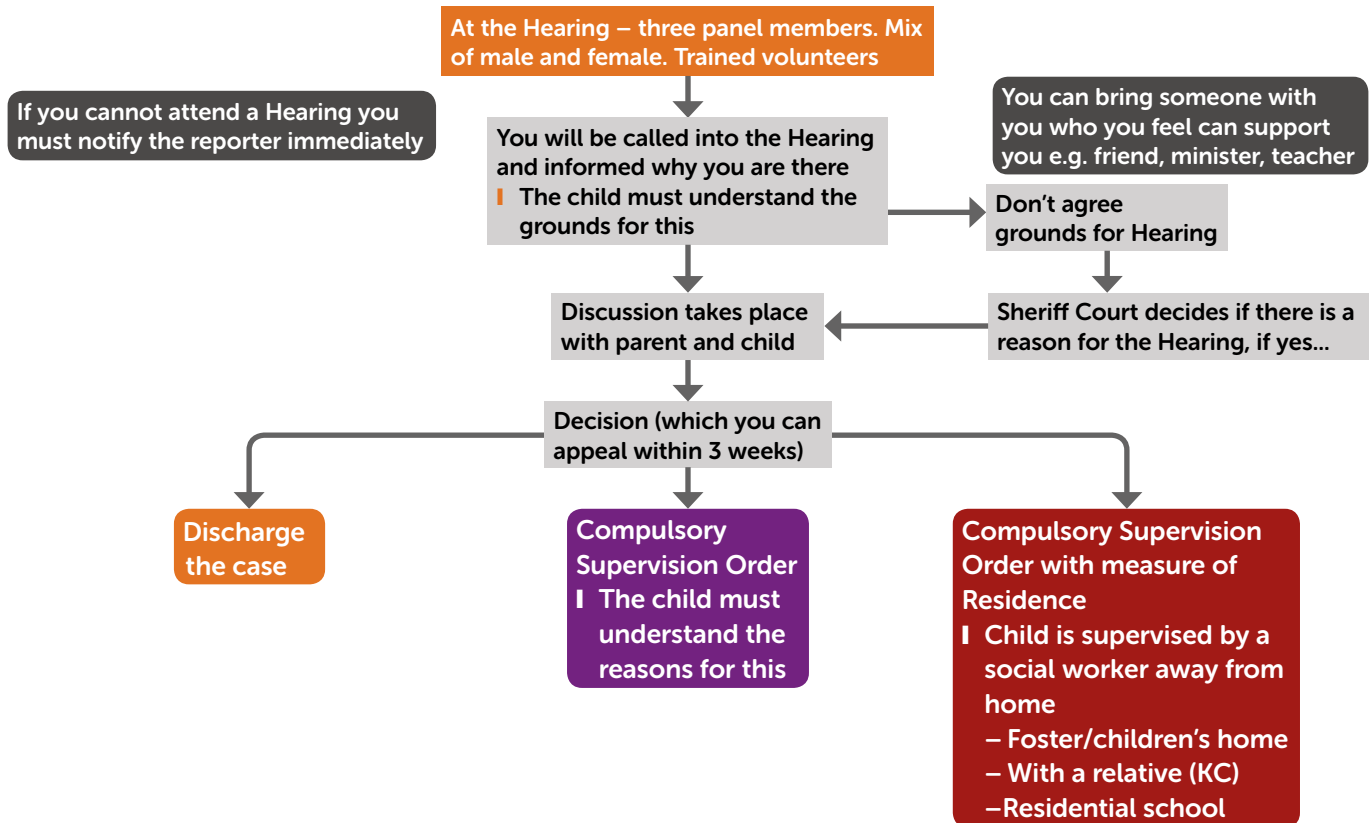
### What if I don't agree with the decision?

- The relevant person, the child and the safeguarder can appeal the decision to the Sheriff
- Any appeal must happen within three weeks
- You should speak to a solicitor who will advise you what to do

## Children's Hearings continued

### What can the Children's Hearing decide?

- They can dismiss the case
- Compulsory Supervision Order: where the child is supervised by a social worker within their home
- Compulsory Supervision Order with a measure that the child reside outwith the family home; the measure must name a specific place and not be general
- They can determine contact arrangements



## Am I Entitled to Legal Aid?

- Since April 2009 more adults are entitled to Legal Aid to ensure all have more "Access to Justice".
- If you meet the financial qualifications, Legal Aid allows people to access help for their legal problems by providing funding.
- If you wish for legal advice or representation from a solicitor you will need to apply for Civil Legal Aid and Assistance.

### What to do...

- Go to a solicitor with your case – explain circumstances.
- The solicitor will inform you what steps they would have to take:
  - a) provide advice and assistance – civil legal assistance.
  - b) represent you in Court – civil legal aid.
- Your solicitor will then inform you what legal aid you require – civil legal assistance, civil legal aid or both.

### Civil Legal Aid:

- This funds a solicitor to put someone's case in court
- It funds preparation, the hearing and possible expert witnesses or advocates
- Your opponent can oppose your legal aid

- Your solicitor will give you forms to fill in which detail your financial income.
- They will ask for information on your savings or income.
- The Scottish Legal Aid Board will consider if there is a legal basis to your case or your likelihood to win the case.

### Legal Aid granted?

- You and your solicitor will be notified in writing – if you are denied legal aid you can appeal against the decision.
- You may still have to pay some contribution towards your case – you can discuss this with your solicitor.

### Civil Legal Assistance:

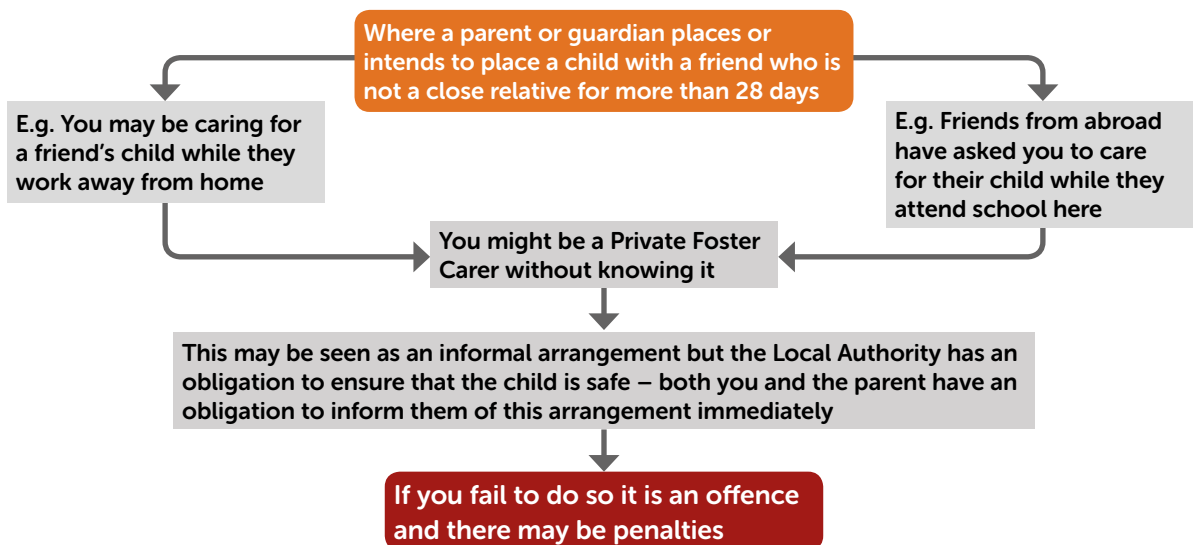
- Helps pay for advice from a solicitor on a Scots Law matter
- Involves writing letters or advice on whether to take the case to Court
- Solicitor decides if you meet criteria for financial help

### If you need help contact

Legal Aid Helpline on: 0845 122 8686

7 days a week: 7am-11pm

## Private Fostering



### Responsibilities of the Local Authority

- They must determine if the placement is right for the child
- They will visit the child & parent within 2 weeks of being informed
- Visit parents/ Guardian and Private foster carers
- Obtain a full medical assessment of the child
- If possible ask the child on their view of the placement
- Regularly visit where the child is staying
- Obtain a medical certificate of carers to assess their ability to care for the child
- Write a report stating if placement is appropriate and give to carer & parent
- Visit the child every 3 months up to 1 year, and after that every 6 months until deemed necessary

### Responsibilities of Carers

- A parent should contact the social work department at least 2 weeks prior to you caring for the child and you should also do the same. It should be done in writing.
- If the child is placed in an emergency situation contact SW within 7 days
- You must allow social work to visit and interview in order to ensure that the child is safe and cared for
- If you change address while caring for the child you must inform SW and what area you are moving to
- Inform SW within 48 hours if the child dies or is removed from your care

# Organisations That Can Support Kinship Carers

## Aberlour Trust

A leading children's charity providing a range of services, support and advice for vulnerable children, young people and families in Scotland.

### Aberlour Child Care Trust

36 Park Terrace,  
Stirling FK8 2JR

**T:** 01786 450335

**Email:** [enquiries@aberlour.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@aberlour.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.aberlour.org.uk](http://www.aberlour.org.uk)

## Action for Children Scotland

They work to make sure every child and young person has the love, support and opportunity they need to reach their potential.

City Park, 368 Alexandra Parade  
Glasgow G31 3AU

**T:** 0141 550 9010

**Email:** [ask.us@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:ask.us@actionforchildren.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.actionforchildren.org.uk](http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk)

## Action for Sick Children Scotland

Promotes and campaigns for the highest possible standards of healthcare for all children and young people in our healthcare system which includes raising awareness of the health needs and rights of children and young people in and leaving care. They work to make sure every child and young person has the love, support and opportunity they need to reach their potential.

22 Laurie Street  
Edinburgh, EH6 7AB

**T:** 0131 553 6553

**Web:** [www.ascscotland.org.uk](http://www.ascscotland.org.uk)

## Barnardo's

Whatever the issue from drug misuse to disability; youth crime to mental health; sexual abuse to domestic violence; poverty to homelessness; Barnardo's believes we can bring out the best in every child.

**T:** 0131 446 7000

**Web:** [www.barnardos.org.uk/scotland](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/scotland)

Please see website for more contact details.

## Organisations That Can Support Kinship Carers continued

### Capability Scotland

Scotland's leading disability organisation provides flexible services which support disabled people, their families and carers.

#### Capability Scotland

Head Office, Westerlea  
11 Ellersly Road  
Edinburgh  
EH12 6HY

**T:** 0131 337 9876

**Textphone:** 0131 346 2529

**Web:** [www.capability-scotland.org.uk](http://www.capability-scotland.org.uk)

### Carers Trust

Information, advice, discussion and support for carers.

Skypark 3 Suite I-2, 14/18 Elliott Place

Glasgow G3 8EP

**T:** 0300 123 2008

**Email:** [info@carers.org](mailto:info@carers.org)

**Web:** [www.carers.org](http://www.carers.org)

### Carers UK Scotland

Carers Scotland is the voice of carers. Carers provide unpaid care by looking after an ill, frail or disabled family member, friend or partner.

**CarersLine:** 0808 808 7777

**Web:** [www.carersuk.org/scotland](http://www.carersuk.org/scotland)

Please see website for more contact details.

### CHAS (Childrens Hospice Association Scotland)

Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) is a Scottish charity that provides the only hospice services in Scotland for children and young people with life-limiting conditions.

Canal Court

42 Craiglockhart Avenue

Edinburgh EH14 1LT

**T:** 0131 444 1900

**Email:** [info@chas.org.uk](mailto:info@chas.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.chas.org.uk](http://www.chas.org.uk)



## Organisations That Can Support Kinship Carers continued

### ChildLine

Get help and advice about a wide range of issues, talk to a counsellor online, send ChildLine an email or post on the message boards.

3rd Floor, Ruby House  
8 Ruby Place, Aberdeen AB10 1QZ  
T: 0800 1111

**Email:** Visit our site to send us an email

**Web:** [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

### Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland

We work to get a better life for low-income families in Scotland through campaigning and lobbying, and ensure they get the correct information through our welfare rights work, information, training and advice line for advisers.

Unit 9 Ladywell  
94 Duke Street  
Glasgow, G4 0UW  
T: 0141 552 3303

**Email:** [staff@cpagscotland.org.uk](mailto:staff@cpagscotland.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.cpag.org.uk/scotland](http://www.cpag.org.uk/scotland)

### Children 1st

Charity supporting families under stress, protecting children from harm and neglect, helping children recover from abuse and promoting children's rights.

#### Head office:

83 Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh, EH9 1AT  
T: 0131 446 2300

**Web:** [www.children1st.org.uk](http://www.children1st.org.uk)

Please refer to website for more details.

### Children 1st Kinship Care

The national training, outreach and helpline service which aims to improve children's lives through supporting kinship carers. Sign up for our newsletter to find out more about support, policy and events.

T: 0800 028 2233

**Email:** [policy@children1st.org.uk](mailto:policy@children1st.org.uk)

## Organisations That Can Support Kinship Carers continued

### Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland

The Children and Young People's Commissioner is responsible for making sure that all children and young people in Scotland have their rights respected.

Rosebery House, 9 Haymarket Terrace,  
Edinburgh EH12 5EZ

**T:** 0131 346 5350

**Young person's freephone:** 0800 0191179

**Text:** 07702 335 720

**Email:** [inbox@cypcs.org.uk](mailto:inbox@cypcs.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.cypcs.org.uk](http://www.cypcs.org.uk)

### Children in Scotland

Children in Scotland is the national agency for voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals working with children and their families in Scotland.

Level 1, Rosebery House, 9 Haymarket Terrace,  
Edinburgh, EH12 5EZ

**T:** 0131 313 2322

**Email:** [info@childreninscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@childreninscotland.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.childreninscotland.org.uk](http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk)

### Circle

Provides holistic, community based support to marginalised children and families. They provide services throughout Edinburgh, West Lothian, Lanarkshire & Cornton Vale.

18 West Pilton Park  
Edinburgh EH4 4EJ

**T:** 0131 552 0305

**Web:** [www.circlescotland.org](http://www.circlescotland.org)

### Clan Childlaw

Deliver free legal advice & representation to children and young people all across Scotland, who would otherwise have found it very difficult or impossible to access the legal help that they require. Help children and young people up to the age of 18, or 21 if they have been looked after children.

Norton Park, 57 Albion Road,  
Edinburgh EH7 5QY

**T:** 0131 475 2567 or 075 275 66682

**Email:** [info@clanchildlaw.org](mailto:info@clanchildlaw.org)

**Web:** [www.clanchildlaw.org](http://www.clanchildlaw.org)

## Organisations That Can Support Kinship Carers continued

### Citizens Advice Bureau

Helps people resolve their money, legal and other problems by providing information and advice.

Edinburgh Office  
1st Floor, Spectrum House  
2 Powderhall Road  
Edinburgh EH7 4GB  
T: 0131 550 1000

**Kinship Care Helpline:** 0808 800 0006

Local CAB offices available on website.

**Web:** [www.cas.org.uk](http://www.cas.org.uk)

### CRIN – Child Rights International Network

The Child Rights International Network (CRIN) is a network of child rights organisations that work to improve the lives of children.

Child Rights Information Network (CRIN)  
The Foundry, 17 Oval Way,  
London SE11 5RR  
T: 020 3752 5484  
**Email:** [info@crin.org](mailto:info@crin.org)  
**Web:** [www.crin.org](http://www.crin.org)

### Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland

A registered charity which offers support to people who have experienced the loss of someone close.

Riverview House, Friarton Road,  
Perth, PH2 8DF  
T: 01738 444 178  
**National Phonenumber:** 0845 600 2227  
**Email:** [info@crusescotland.org.uk](mailto:info@crusescotland.org.uk)  
**Web:** [www.crusescotland.org.uk](http://www.crusescotland.org.uk)

### Cyrenians

This service provides mediation and support to young people and families to help them to address any conflict that they are experiencing.

Norton Park, 57 Albion Road  
Edinburgh EH7 5QY  
T: 0131 475 2493  
**Email:** [conflictresolution@cyrenians.scot](mailto:conflictresolution@cyrenians.scot)  
**Web:** [scottishconflictresolution.org.uk](http://scottishconflictresolution.org.uk)

## Organisations That Can Support Kinship Carers continued

### Enquire

National independent advice and information service for parents who have a child with additional support for learning needs.

Level 1, Rosebery House,  
9 Haymarket Terrace,  
Edinburgh, EH12 5EZ  
**T:** 0131 313 8800 / 0345 123 2303  
**Web:** [www.enquire.org.uk](http://www.enquire.org.uk)

### Families Outside

Voicing the needs of families affected by imprisonment in Scotland.

13 Great King Street,  
Edinburgh, EH3 6QW  
**Freephone:** 0500 839383  
**Email:** [support@familiesoutside.org.uk](mailto:support@familiesoutside.org.uk)  
**Web:** [www.familiesoutside.org.uk](http://www.familiesoutside.org.uk)

General Enquiries  
**T:** 0131 557 9800  
**Email:** [admin@familiesoutside.org.uk](mailto:admin@familiesoutside.org.uk)

### LGBT Youth Scotland

LGBT Youth Scotland is a national youth organisation working towards the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people in the life of Scotland. We provide a range of services and opportunities for young people, families and professionals.

**T:** 0131 555 3940  
**Email:** [info@lgbtyouth.org.uk](mailto:info@lgbtyouth.org.uk)  
**Web:** [www.lgbtyouth.org.uk](http://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk)

Use these contact details to get in contact with a worker, make an appointment or find out more about our services.

### Mentor

Protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people from alcohol and drug related harm. Providing direct support, advice, information and resources to kinship families.

111 Oxbgangs Road North  
Edinburgh EH14 1ED  
**T:** 0131 334 8512  
**Email:** [admin-scotland@mentoruk.org](mailto:admin-scotland@mentoruk.org)  
**Web:** [www.mentoruk.org.uk](http://www.mentoruk.org.uk)

## Organisations That Can Support Kinship Carers continued

### One Parent Families Scotland

Information, links and resources for single parents in Scotland.

Headquarters

13 Gayfield Square

Edinburgh EH1 3NX

**Lone Parent Helpline:** 0808 8010323

**T:** 0131 556 3899

**Email:** [info@opfs.org.uk](mailto:info@opfs.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.opfs.org.uk](http://www.opfs.org.uk)

### ParentLine Scotland

The free confidential helpline and email service for anyone caring for a child to contact about any problem, big or small. Factsheets offering helpful tips can be downloaded from our website on a range of issues. ParentLine Scotland provides support to kinship carers as part of the national kinship care service.

The helpline is available 7 days a week;

**Call:** 0800 028 2233

**Email:** [parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk](mailto:parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.parentlinescotland.org.uk](http://www.parentlinescotland.org.uk)

### Quarriers

Provide the most diverse range of services in Scotland through more than 100 projects. Our highly trained, professional staff have the expertise and experience to support and care for:

- Adults and children with a disability
- Children and families
- Young people
- Young people with housing support needs
- People with epilepsy
- Carers

Quarriers Head Office

Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir PA11 3SX

**T:** 01505 612224 / 616000

**Web:** [www.quarriers.org.uk](http://www.quarriers.org.uk)

## Organisations That Can Support Kinship Carers continued

### Relationships Scotland

Relationships Scotland's network provides relationship counselling, family mediation, child contact centres and other family support services across all of mainland and island Scotland. Our work supports individuals, couples and families experiencing relationship difficulties.

18 York Place, Edinburgh EH1 3EP

**T:** 0845 119 2020

**Email:** [enquiries@relationships-scotland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@relationships-scotland.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.relationships-scotland.org.uk](http://www.relationships-scotland.org.uk)

### Scottish Families Information Service

Your one-stop shop for family information in Scotland. Local and national information on childcare, pre-school education, support for parents and carers.

**Web:** [www.scottishfamilies.gov.uk](http://www.scottishfamilies.gov.uk)

### Samaritans

Provides confidential emotional support 24/7 to those experiencing despair, distress or suicidal feelings.

Samaritans

PO Box 9090

Stirling FK8 2SA

**T:** 08457 909090

**Email:** [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

**Web:** [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

### Save the Children

We are working flat out to ensure children get proper healthcare, food, education and protection. We're saving lives in emergencies, campaigning for children's rights, and improving their futures through long-term development work.

Save the Children Scotland

Prospect House

2nd Floor, 5 Thistle Street

Edinburgh EH2 1DF

**T:** 0131 527 8200

**Email:** [infoscotland@savethechildren.org.uk](mailto:infoscotland@savethechildren.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.savethechildren.org.uk](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk)

## Organisations That Can Support Kinship Carers continued

### Scottish Child Law Centre

Independent charity which promotes knowledge and use of Scots law and children's rights for the benefit of children and young people in Scotland.

54 East Crosscauseway,  
Edinburgh EH8 9HD

**Freephone for under 18s:** 0800 328 8970

**T:** 0131 667 6333

**Text:** text 'SCLC' and your question to 80800

**Email:** [info@sclc.org.uk](mailto:info@sclc.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.sclc.org.uk](http://www.sclc.org.uk)

### Scottish Kinship Care Alliance (SKCA) known as Alliance

The Alliance is a national network of kinship care support groups in Scotland. Primarily a campaigning organisation, seeking to represent and unify kinship care groups in their demands for basic rights and justice for the vulnerable children in their care.

In addition they help the network benefit from each other's experience by sharing best practice between local kinship support groups and assist newly formed groups in setting up and becoming active, while sharing information on local issues between all groups.

Unit 2, Dunfermline Business Centre, Izatt Avenue,  
Dunfermline, Fife KY11 3BZ

**T:** 07759 540706 & 07942 332191

**Email:** [scottishkinshipcarealliance@gmail.com](mailto:scottishkinshipcarealliance@gmail.com)

**Web:** [www.scottishkinshipcarealliance.wordpress.com](http://www.scottishkinshipcarealliance.wordpress.com)

## Organisations That Can Support Kinship Carers continued

### Shared Care Scotland

Shared Care Scotland is a national charity that works to improve the quality, choice and availability of short break (respite care) provision across Scotland.

Unit 2, Dunfermline Business Centre, Izatt Avenue,  
Dunfermline, Fife KY11 3BZ  
T: 01383 622462

Email: [office@sharedcarescotland.com](mailto:office@sharedcarescotland.com)

Web: [www.sharedcarescotland.org.uk](http://www.sharedcarescotland.org.uk)

### Shelter Scotland

Shelter is a charity that works to alleviate the distress caused by homelessness and bad housing.

Shelter Scotland,  
4th Floor, Scotiabank House,  
6 South Charlotte Street,  
Edinburgh EH2 4AW  
Free helpline: 0808 800 4444  
Web: [scotland.shelter.org.uk](http://scotland.shelter.org.uk)

### SFAD – Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs

We understand the devastating effects drugs can have on families and are here to provide support and information to individual family members and family support groups.

226 St Vincent Street  
Glasgow G2 5R

T: 0141 221 0544

Freephone: 08080 101010

Email: [info@sfad.org.uk](mailto:info@sfad.org.uk)

Web: [www.sfad.org.uk](http://www.sfad.org.uk)

### Together – Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights

Together is an alliance of Scottish children's charities that improves the awareness, understanding and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We do this by: promoting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; helping children's organisations to integrate the Convention into their work; monitoring and reporting on the progress made at a Scottish, UK and UN level.

Level 1 Rosebery House, 9 Haymarket Terrace,  
Edinburgh EH12 5EZ

T: 0131 337 9015

Email: [info@togetherscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@togetherscotland.org.uk)

Web: [www.togetherscotland.org.uk](http://www.togetherscotland.org.uk)



## Organisations That Can Support Kinship Carers continued

### Who Cares? Scotland

Who Cares? Scotland is a voluntary organisation working with and for children and young people.

5 Oswald St,  
Glasgow G1 4QR

T: 0141 226 4441

Email: [hello@whocaresscotland.org](mailto:hello@whocaresscotland.org)

Web: [www.whocaresscotland.org](http://www.whocaresscotland.org)

### Young Scot

Offers information for 12-16 year olds; includes arts, jobs and careers, housing, sport and leisure.

Infoline: 0808 801 0338 (Mon to Fri 10am-6pm)

Email: [infoline@youngscot.org](mailto:infoline@youngscot.org)

Web: [www.youngscot.org](http://www.youngscot.org)

### YouthLink Scotland

YouthLink Scotland is the national agency in Scotland for youth work.

Rosebery House  
9 Haymarket Terrace  
Edinburgh EH12 5EZ

T: 0131 313 2488

Web: [www.youthlink.co.uk](http://www.youthlink.co.uk)

## Kinship Care Support Groups

**“I came here today feeling that I just wanted to give up but I have left with a spring in my step and with the hope that there is light at the end of the tunnel. I now have hope that things will turn around for me and the kids”**

Kinship Care support groups are a fantastic resource that we recommend to everyone. They cater for all needs and help those who may feel lost, lonely and overwhelmed to realise they are not the only ones going through this situation. They build friendships, share experiences and help others access support or services they did not know about and for some they build a passion to lobby and campaign for better support. No matter what the need a support group can play a major role in supporting kinship care families.

The details of these support groups were correct at the time of printing however numbers and details can always change. Please visit our website [www.kinship.scot](http://www.kinship.scot) for more up to date details.

### Aberdeen

#### **Grandparents as Parents Project**

**Meets:** 1st Saturday each month, 2-4pm

Befriend a Child, 9 Bon Accord Square, Aberdeen AB11 6DJ

**Other information:** Children have activities whilst adults meet up.

## Aberdeenshire

### Kinship for Kids (K4K)

**Meets:** 1st and 3rd Friday of each month, during term time, less regularly during school holidays, 10am-12noon

**Run by:** Kinship carers from the local area  
Osborne House, 22 Duthie Place, Fraserburgh AB43 8WX  
**T:** 01346 513834

### Portlethen – Kinship Care Team

Family support worker arranges informal get-togethers for people in Portlethen, Stonehaven, Laurencekirk, Banchory Palm Room, Portlethen Family Centre, Bruntland Road

### Aberdeenshire Council Social Work Dept

Occasional events for kinship carers which they advertise on the Aberdeenshire Council website

**Email:** [kinshipcare@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:kinshipcare@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

## Angus

### Angus Carers Support Group

For people affected by Drugs and Alcohol – kinship carers can access this group for specific support and as a first point of contact.

**Meets:** Angus Carers Centre, 3 Fishacre, Arbroath DD11 1LE

## Argyll and Bute

### Dochas Carers Centre

Mixed group for all carers

**Meets:** 50 Campbell Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8JU

**T:** 01546 600022

**Email:** [enquiries@dochasfund.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dochasfund.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.dochasfund.org.uk](http://www.dochasfund.org.uk)

### Helensburgh and Lomond Carers

Mixed group for all carers

Lomond House, 29 Lomond Street, Helensburgh

Argyll and Bute G84 7PW

**T:** 01436 673444

**Web:** [helensburgh-carer-support.org/](http://helensburgh-carer-support.org/)

### Islay Kinship Care Support Group (Dochas)

**Meets:** Last Thursday of month 12.30 – 2.30 for lunch and a catch up at Gaelic College (Ionad Chaluim Chille ile), Bowmore, Islay PA43 7LN.

## Clackmannanshire

### Clacks Kinship Carers Group

**Meets:** Every second Thursday morning

The Hubs, Whins Road, Alloa, FK10 3TA

**T:** 01259 213840

**Email:** [admin@ctsi.org.uk](mailto:admin@ctsi.org.uk)

## Dumfries and Galloway

### Kindred Spirits

**Meets:** First Monday of the month, at Welfare Rights Agency, Friars Vennell, Dumfries

**Time:** 10am-12 noon

**Facebook:** Kindred Spirits Dumfries Galloway

### Dumfries Group

**Run by:** Social work for people approved as kinship carers through the council and information is accessed through them.

**T:** 01387 273600

**Email:** [familyplacementteam@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:familyplacementteam@dumgal.gov.uk)

## Dundee

### Kith 'n Kin

**Meets:** Every Thursday at 47 Blinshall Street, DD1 5DF  
10am-12 noon (during term time)

**Run by:** Aberlour/Alcohol Tayside

### Kinship Care Support Group

**Meets:** Every Thursday at Arthurstone Library, 5 Arthurstone Terrace, Dundee DD4 6RT

**Time:** 9-11.30am (during term time)

### Kinship Support Group

**Meets:** Tuesday at Douglas Community Centre, Balmoral Avenue. DD4 8SG

3rd Floor, 30 Whitehill Street, Dundee, DD1 4AF

**Time:** 4.45-6.30pm (term-time only)

**Run by:** Alcohol Tayside

## East Ayrshire

### Kilmarnock Kinship Care Support Group

**Meets:** 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, 1-2 pm  
YMCA, Soulis Street, Kilmarnock, KA3 1AP

**T:** Nancy 07923 825935

**Facebook:** Kilmarnock East Ayrshire Kinship Carers

## East Dunbartonshire

No groups that we are aware of

## East Lothian

### Square One Kinship Care

**Meets:** Fortnightly on a Friday 9.30–11.30 am during school term times at MECA, Haddington Road, Musselburgh. Every other Friday 2:30–5pm group for carers and children at Esk Church Musselburgh.

**T:** Mentor on 0131 334 8512

### Kinship Care Coffee morning

**Meets:** last Wednesday of each month 10am–12noon at Community Centre, 8 Law Road, North Berwick EH39 4PN

## East Renfrewshire

### East Renfrewshire Kinship Carers Support Group

For carers of looked-after children – Eastwood Park, informal arrangements.

**Meets:** The Gatehouse, Eastwood Park, Rouken Glenn Road, Giffnock G46 6UG

**T:** 0141 638 4888

**Email:** [enquiries@eastrenfrewshirecarers.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastrenfrewshirecarers.co.uk)

**Web:** [www.eastrenfrewshirecarers.co.uk/](http://www.eastrenfrewshirecarers.co.uk/)

## Edinburgh

### Kinsfolk Carers

**Meets:** Drop-in session every Thursday from 10am-12noon (term-time only) at Leith Community Centre, Kirkgate. They also have one-to-one surgery at these sessions run by Mentor.

**T:** 0131 208 4321

**Web:** [www.kinsfolkcarers.co.uk](http://www.kinsfolkcarers.co.uk)

### Kinship Choir

**Meets:** On Tuesdays during term time from 10am-12noon at St Andrews and St Georges Church, George Street – next to George Hotel. All welcome, no audition, no experience needed.

### Vocal

Run a number of generic support groups for carers (mixed group).

**Meets:** 8-13 Johnston Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2PQ

**T:** 0131 622 6666

**Web:** [www.vocal.org.uk](http://www.vocal.org.uk)

### Big Hearts Kinship Care After School Club

**Meets:** Weekly on Tuesdays, 4.30-6.30pm in Gorgie Suite, Tynecastle Stadium. For the whole family – activities for children, chance for carers to meet up and share, meal provided.

**T:** 0131 334 8512

### Kinsfolk Coffee Afternoon (Oxgangs)

**Meets:** Wednesdays 1-2.30pm (except school holidays) at Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre, 71 Firhill Drive, EH13 9EU  
**T:** 0131 334 8512

### Edinburgh With Kids

**Meets:** Every Wednesday during term-time 9.30-10.30am, 1 Hailesland Road, Edinburgh EH14 2QS

**T:** 0131 453 6937

**Web:** [www.withkids.org.uk](http://www.withkids.org.uk)

**Facebook:** with kids

### Kinship Support Group (Craigmillar)

**Meets:** Wednesday morning 9.30-11.30 (term-time only) at Greengables Nursery, Greendykes Gardens, Edinburgh.

**T:** 0131 334 8512

### Kinship Saturday Support Group

**Meets:** First Saturday of every month on 3rd floor of Ocean Terminal, 11-12:30pm

**T:** 0131 334 8512

## Eilean Siar

No groups that we are aware of

## Falkirk

### Kinsfolk Care Group

**Meets:** Monthly in Carers Scotland, 1A Bank Street, Falkirk, FK1 1NB. Breaks for school holidays

**T:** 01324 506 400

**Email:** [kinshipcare@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:kinshipcare@falkirk.gov.uk)

## Fife

### Kinship Care Group

**Meets:** Every Tuesday 9.15-11.15am at Old Parish Centre, Short Lane, Cupar KY15 5EQ

### Fairisle Kinship Group

**Meets:** Fairisle Nursery, Fairisle Road, Templehall, Kirkcaldy, KY2 6ED on Tuesday 12.30-2.30pm

### Lang Toon Kinship Carers

**Meets:** Gallatown Nursery, 49 Whytescauseway, Kirkcaldy KY11 1XD on Tuesday 9.30-11.30am

### Kinship Care Group (Dunfermline)

**Meets:** Touch Primary School (Janitors House), Gannock Bank, Dunfermline KY11 4JZ on Thursday 10-11.30am

### Kinship Support Group (Glenrothes Ladybird)

**Meets:** Ladybird Nursery, Erskine Place, Glenrothes KY7 4JB on Tuesday 1.30-3.00pm

### Kinship Support Group (Leven)

**Meets:** Wednesday 9.15-11am, Community Lounge, Methilhill Primary School, Sea Road, Leven KY8 2JW



## Glasgow

Various groups run throughout the city run by FASS and Geeza Break including:

### West Glasgow Kinship

**Meets:** every fortnight during term time from 9.30am-12.30pm at Heart of Scotstoun Community Centre, 64 Balmoral Road, Scotstoun, G14 0BL

**T:** 07950 229384

### FASS

Provides supports to kinship carers and families affected by a loved one's alcohol/drug problem which includes kinship carers who have sole responsibility for a child(ren) due to parental addiction.

**Meets:** FASS 123 West St Glasgow G5 8BA

**T:** 0141 420 2050

**Web:** [www.fassglasgow.org](http://www.fassglasgow.org)

### Evening Kinship Group

The Evening Kinship Group meets every second Tuesday from 6pm-7.30pm. This group welcomes any kinship carers who are the sole carer of a child/children due to parental addiction. Attendance should be confirmed by calling FASS on 0141 420 2050 before attending meetings.

**Meets:** 123 West St Glasgow G5 8BA

### Kinship for the Future Group

This group welcomes any family member who has been affected by a loved ones drug or alcohol problem or kinship carers who are caring for children as a result of parental substance misuse.

**Meets:** Every Tuesday between 12-2.00pm (excluding public holidays) at 123 West St Glasgows G5 8BA.

**T:** 0141 420 2050

### South East Kinship

**Meets:** Every fortnight Monday 12-2pm at Castlemilk Community Centre, 121 Castlemilk Drive, Glasgow G45 9UG

**T:** Ann on 07910 888296

### Kinship for the Future (North) Group

**Meets:** Weekly on a Thursday at Possilpark Church

**T:** Helen 07891 698052

### New Fossils Grandparents Support Group

**Meets:** Every second Thursday during term time at St Michael's Chapel Hall. They also go on trips.

**T:** Moira 0141 771 8280

## Glasgow

### South West Kinship Group

**Meets:** Every 2nd Friday in Pollock

**T:** Jackie on 07729 118002 or Terri on 07784 753122

**Email:** [southwestkinship@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:southwestkinship@yahoo.co.uk)

### East End Kinship Care Group

**Meets:** Every second Wednesday at With Kids,  
15 Annfield Place, Glasgow, G31 2XE

**T:** 0141 550 5770

**Web:** [www.withkids.org.uk](http://www.withkids.org.uk)

### Easterhouse Kinship Care Support Group

**Meets:** Every Tuesday at 10am at the Barnardo's Youth  
Involvement Project, Westwood Business Centre, Aberdalgie  
Road, Easterhouse, Glasgow G34 9HJ

**T:** 0141 773 4297

## Highland

### Highland Kinship Coffee Morning

**Meets:** Monthly at Children 1st, Longman Road, Inverness.

**T:** 01463 220057

## Inverclyde

### Parenting Again

**Meets:** Usually, but not always, on 2nd Friday of the month at Inverclyde Carers Centre, 68-70 Cathcart Street, Greenock, PA15 1DD. Some months they go on outings instead of having a meeting.

**T:** 01475 735180

**Email:** [enquiries@inverclydecarerscentre.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@inverclydecarerscentre.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.inverclydecarerscentre.org.uk](http://www.inverclydecarerscentre.org.uk)

### Inverclyde Kinship Care Group

**Meets:** Monthly, alternating between morning and evening meetings.

**T:** 01475 715367

## Midlothian

### Grandparents Parenting Again (Midlothian)

**Meets:** Every Thursday during term time 9.30-11.30am at Gorebridge Parish Church. They also meet on first Monday of the month at 7.30pm and organise outings from time to time.

**T:** 07540 300591

**Email:** [kinshipcarersadvocacy@gmail.com](mailto:kinshipcarersadvocacy@gmail.com)

**Web:** [kinshipcarersmidlothian.co.uk](http://kinshipcarersmidlothian.co.uk)

### Family Reachout

(Surestart Grandparent Support Service)

**Meets:** Wednesday 9.30-11.30am at Stone Avenue, Mayfield, Dalkeith

**T:** 0131 660 6644

### Stepping Forward

(Surestart Grandparent Support Service)

**Meets:** Tuesday 9.30-11.30am at 60 Queensway, Penicuik

**T:** 01968 679 215

### Grandparents/Toddler Group

(Surestart Grandparent Support Service)

**Meets:** Monday 10-11.30am at Woodburn Primary School, Room 2 CLD, Cousland Road, Dalkeith

**T:** 0131 654 0489

### Bonnyrigg Kincare Group

(Surestart Grandparent Support Service)

**Meets:** 1st Thursday on month 1-3pm at Bright Sparks in Bonnyrigg

## Midlothian

### **Dalkeith Midlothian Kinship Carers DMKC/SCIO**

**Meets:** Every Thursday during term-time 10am-12noon (except last Thursday of month 12noon-2pm) at St David's Church Hall, 41 Eskbank Road, Dalkeith

**Web:** [www.dmkc.org.uk](http://www.dmkc.org.uk)

## Moray

### **Kinship Peer Support**

**Meets:** Monthly on Tuesdays 10am-12noon at Moray Resource Centre, Elgin, run by carers including speakers and training sessions.

**T:** 01343 564 170

## North Ayrshire

### **Castlepark Kinship Care Group**

**Meets:** Monthly, 9:15-11:15am at Castlepark Early Years Centre, Carron Place, Irvine, KA12 9LQ

**T:** 01294 270335

### **S.H.O.U.T. Kinship Support North Ayrshire**

**Meets:** Meets last Tuesday of the month 10am-12noon and prize bingo every three weeks.

**T:** 01294 312692

**Email:** [shoutkinshipnorthayrshire@gmail.com](mailto:shoutkinshipnorthayrshire@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/shoutkinshipnorthayrshire](http://www.facebook.com/shoutkinshipnorthayrshire)

## North Lanarkshire

### Nurture Scotland

Support and advice service

**Meets:** Alexander Gibson Way, Motherwell, ML1 3FA

**T:** 01698 264200

**Email:** [enquiries@nurture-scotland.org](mailto:enquiries@nurture-scotland.org)

**Web:** [www.nurture-scotland.org](http://www.nurture-scotland.org)

### Kinship NL

Range of coffee mornings in Coatbridge, Bellshill and Cumbernauld.

**FOR COATBRIDGE:** normally Old Monkland Primary Community Wing and St Andrew's School Campus both 9am-12pm

**T:** 01236 638470

**FOR BELLSHILL:** Meets Orbiston Business Centre, 46 Babylon Drive 9:30am

**T:** 01698 274662

**FOR CUMBERNAULD:** Meets Midfield Centre, Cumbernauld, 10am-12pm

**T:** 01236 638383

## Orkney

### Foster Care Support Group

Looked after kinship carers can attend.

**T:** 01856 873535

## Perth and Kinross

### Perth and Kinross Council

Arrange meetings every couple of months.

Family Placement & Kinship Care Team, Almondbank House,  
Lewis Place, Perth, PH1 3BD

T: 01738 472260

### Kith 'n Kin

Tayside Council on Alcohol – point of contact.

Kith 'n' Kin, 14 Marshall Place, Perth, PH2 8AH

Please Contact Tayside Council on Alcohol

T: 01738 580336

Email: [perthknk@alcoholtayside.com](mailto:perthknk@alcoholtayside.com)

## Renfrewshire

### Grandparents Support Group

**Meets:** Meets on the last Tuesday of every month 11.30am –  
1pm at Renfrewshire Carers Centre, Unit 55 Embroidery Mill,  
Abbey Mill Business Centre, Paisley, Renfrewshire

T: 0141 887 3643

Email: [enquiries@renfrewshirecarers.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@renfrewshirecarers.org.uk)

Web: [www.renfrewshirecarers.org.uk](http://www.renfrewshirecarers.org.uk)

### Renfrewshire Council

Currently looking to develop support groups in near future.

T: 0141 618 4163

## Scottish Borders

No groups at present

## Shetland

No groups that we are aware of

## South Ayrshire

### South Ayrshire Kinship Care Group

**Meets:** Monthly on Fridays 10am-12noon at Family Resource Centre, Groupwork Room, Wills Road, Ayr, KA8 9NL

## South Lanarkshire

### South Lanarkshire Kinship Care Group

**Meets:** Monthly on Fridays at Hamilton Community Outreach, Hamilton Accies FC Stadium, New Douglas Park, Cadzow Avenue, Hamilton

### Nurture Scotland

Support and advice service.

**Meets:** Alexander Gibson Way, Motherwell, ML1 3FA

**T:** 01698 264200

**Email:** [enquiries@nurture-scotland.org](mailto:enquiries@nurture-scotland.org)

**Web:** [www.nurture-scotland.org](http://www.nurture-scotland.org)

## stirling

### Stirling Kinship Care Support Group

**Meets:** On Wednesdays 3.30pm-6pm at Stirling Family Support Service, 36 St John Street, Stirling, FK8 1EA. Children are welcome too – they have supervised play downstairs whilst carers meet upstairs.

**T:** 01786 470797

**Email:** [www.stirlingfamilysupport.org.uk](http://www.stirlingfamilysupport.org.uk)

## West Dunbartonshire

### Kinship Care Support Group

**Meets:** Every second Monday from 10am-12noon at Ben View Ben View Resource Centre, Strathlevin Place Dumbarton

**T:** Micheleine 07462 930356

**Email:** [kinshipcarewestdunbartonshire@gmail.com](mailto:kinshipcarewestdunbartonshire@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/kinshipcarewestdunbartonshire](https://facebook.com/kinshipcarewestdunbartonshire)

## West Lothian

### West Lothian Kinship Care Group

**Meets:** First Wednesday of the month 10-11.30am at Langthorn Community Centre, Kenilworth Rise, Livingston EH54 6JJ

### West Dunbartonshire Carers

Mixed group that works with kinship carers – drop-in

**Meets:** Carers Centre, 84 Dumbarton Road, Clydebank G81 1UG

**T:** 0141 941 1550

**Email:** [clydebankccc@carerswd.org](mailto:clydebankccc@carerswd.org)

**Web:** [www.carerswd.org](http://www.carerswd.org)

### We Kin Care Kinship Care Group

**Meets:** Usually on Wednesday afternoons at Blackburn Community Centre, Ash Grove, Blackburn EH47 7LJ

**Email:** [wekincareswestlothian@gmail.com](mailto:wekincareswestlothian@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/wekinwestlothian](https://www.facebook.com/wekinwestlothian)



## Acknowledgement

Mentor would like to thank everyone who has helped produce the 3rd instalment of this Kinship Care Resource Guide. We would particularly like to thank the Scottish Government who has commissioned the production of this resource.

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Mentor is a registered charity. Our mission is to focus on the prevention of alcohol and drug misuse in our efforts to promote and protect the health and wellbeing of children and young people. We believe that prevention begins with the healthy development of the child in a nurturing family and supportive community that offers both protection from risk and opportunities for young people to develop and achieve their full potential.



# Notes



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For additional copies of the guide contact:



111 Oxfords Road North

Edinburgh EH14 1ED

Tel: 0131 334 8512 [www.mentoruk.org.uk](http://www.mentoruk.org.uk)

This pack was produced by:



Please also visit the new Scottish Kinship Care website for further information [www.kinship.scot](http://www.kinship.scot)