Royal Greenwich Children's Services

Local Offer for Kinship Carers 2026 - 2029



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ROYAL borough of GREENWICH

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1. Introduction

The Royal Borough of Greenwich is committed to enhancing support for kinship carers—relatives or close family friends who step in to care for children when their parents are unable to do so. The new social care reforms, which emphasise early intervention, transparency, and improved outcomes for children and families, provide a robust framework for our Kinship Care Strategy.

Kinship care plays a vital role in providing stability, familiarity, and loving homes for children and young people who cannot live with their birth parents. At Greenwich Children's Services, we recognise the significant contribution kinship carers make, whether you are a grandparent, aunt, uncle, older sibling, or close family friend, in keeping children connected to their roots, their culture, and their community.

We know that becoming a kinship carer brings both rewards and challenges, and we want to make sure you feel valued, supported, and well-equipped to provide the best possible care for the children in your family. Our Kinship Care Local Offer sets out the range of financial, practical, and emotional support that's available to you, as well as guidance, training, and other resources to help you navigate your role.

This Local Offer reflects our ongoing commitment to putting children first and strengthening families, ensuring that kinship carers and the children they care for can grow together in a safe, stable, and loving environment.

At the Royal Borough of Greenwich, we recognise that kinship care is more than a legal arrangement. It is often a significant family transition that can happen at a time of crisis, uncertainty, or change.

We are committed to providing a whole-family approach that recognises the needs of:

- **Children and young people**
- **Kinship carers**
- **Birth parents**
- **Siblings and wider family members**





We want all kinship families to be able to access support when they need it, regardless of the type of kinship arrangement they have. This includes informal arrangements, Special Guardianship Orders, Child Arrangements Orders, private fostering arrangements and kinship foster care.

This Local Offer has been developed in partnership with kinship carers and families.

It will be reviewed annually, taking into account feedback from children in kinship care, kinship carers, parents, and partner agencies.

To ensure the offer continues to meet the needs of families, we will hold annual consultation events, carry out regular surveys, and establish a Kinship Care Reference Group.

What Is a Kinship Local Offer?

Every local authority must provide clear and accessible information about the support available for children in kinship care and their families. This is called the Kinship Local Offer.

The Kinship Local Offer should:

- **Include details about all local services and support for every type of kinship care arrangement.**
- **Be easy to understand, regularly updated, and freely available including on the council's website.**
- **Be developed with input from local partners, such as health services, schools, community organisations and kinship carers.**
- **Support all children in kinship care, whether or not they are formally looked after by the local authority.**

The aim is to make sure kinship carers and families can easily find the help they need, when they need it.

2. Background and Context

Support for Kinship Carers: What You Need to Know

In February 2023, the Department for Education (DfE) launched a plan called Stable Homes, Built on Love. This was a response to several important reviews, including the Independent Review of Children's Social Care and the tragic cases of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson. The goal was to improve the children's social care system and make a real difference in the lives of children and families.

As part of this plan, the government has shifted the focus of children's social care towards early help and support for families—before problems become crises.

Kinship Care at the Heart of Reform

Kinship care, where children are cared for by relatives or close family friends, was made a key priority. The government recognised how important family networks are and introduced several changes to better support kinship carers:

- **Helping families overcome barriers** so children can stay safely with people they know and trust.
- **Expanding legal aid** for people applying for Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) in private family law cases.
- **Improving guidance** on how professionals work with family networks, including better use of Family Group Conferences.
- **Creating a national kinship care strategy** to guide future improvements.
- **Launching a national service** to provide training, advice, and information for kinship carers.
- **Improving workplace rights** for kinship carers with SGOs or Care Arrangement Orders (CAOs), and exploring financial support for these carers across all local authorities.

In December 2023, the DfE published the Children's Social Care National Framework. This official guidance sets out what good children's social care should look like and what it should achieve. One of its key goals is to ensure children and young people are supported by their wider family network whenever possible.

In October 2024, the government updated its guidance for local authorities, now called Kinship Care: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities. This update builds on the National Kinship Care Strategy and continues the work started by Stable Homes, Built on Love. The aim is to keep more children safe and supported within their families.



3. Types of Kinship Care Arrangements



Kinship care means a child is being looked after by someone they already know and trust—usually a family member or close friend. These arrangements can be **temporary** or **long-term**, and they can happen in different ways:

3.1 Court-Ordered Kinship Care

Sometimes, the Family Court decides that a child should live with someone other than their parents. This can happen through:

- **A Child Arrangements Order (CAO)**
- **A Special Guardianship Order (SGO)**

These legal orders give the carer certain rights and responsibilities for the child.

3.2 Kinship Foster Care (Connected Carer)

In some cases, a child is formally in the care of the local authority but placed with a relative or family friend who has been assessed and approved as a foster carer. This is also called: connected care, family and friends foster care or kinship foster care.

3.3 Private Fostering

This happens when a child under 16 (or under 18 if they have a disability) lives with someone who isn't a close relative—like a family friend or distant relative—for more than 28 days. In this case, the local council must be informed, even though it's not arranged by them.

3.4 Informal Family Arrangement

This is when parents choose to have their child live with a close family member—like a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or step-parent—without involving social workers or the courts. It's a private family decision.

4. Who can be a Kinship Carer?

A kinship carer is someone who steps in to care for a child when their parents are unable to. This person is usually someone the child already knows and trusts. Kinship carers can include:

- **Close relatives** – such as grandparents, aunts, uncles, or adult siblings.
- **Relatives of the child's siblings** – for example, an aunt or uncle of the child's brother or sister.
- **Former step-parents** – or someone who used to live with the child's parent as a partner.
- **Close family friends** – someone who has a strong, trusted relationship with the child or their parents.
- **Friends of the child's relatives** – for example, a close friend of the child's grandparent or aunt.
- **Other trusted adults** – like a teacher, youth worker, childminder, or former foster carer who has a meaningful connection with the child.



5. Services available for all Kinship Carers (including informal arrangements) – Universal Services

1. MASH

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in the Royal Borough of Greenwich is the first point of contact if you're worried about a child's safety or wellbeing. MASH brings together professionals from different services to quickly assess concerns and make sure children and families get the right support. Whether you're a family member, friend, or professional, you can contact MASH to report concerns or ask for help. You can reach them by phone at **020 8921 3172** or by email at **mash-referrals@royalgreenwich.gov.uk**

2. Early Help Services

The Early Help service in the Royal Borough of Greenwich offers support to children, young people, and families as soon as challenges begin to arise—before they become more serious. It's not a single service, but a joined-up approach involving schools, health services, and local organisations working together. Whether it's help with parenting, school attendance, emotional wellbeing, or family relationships, Early Help aims to provide the right support at the right time to improve outcomes and reduce the need for more intensive services later on.

3. Children with additional needs

Royal Greenwich Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) provides independent and impartial information, advice and support for children and young people with special educational needs and their parents/carers to make sure that they are able to be involved in processes that affect them. The service provides a range of information and advice pertaining to education, health and social care.

Contact details
Special education needs and disability information, advice and support service (SENDIASS)

sendiass@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

020 8921 8402

royalgreenwich.gov.uk/downloads/download/884/referral_form_for_early_help



4. Educational advice - Royal Borough of Greenwich Virtual school

The role of Virtual School for Kinship children is to champion the attendance, attainment and progress of children in kinship care.

- Raising awareness of the needs and disadvantages of children in different types of kinship care arrangements across schools and other RBG services.
- Promoting practice that supports attendance and engagement of kinship children in education.
- Promoting practice that improves the educational attainment of children in kinship care.

In addition to this, Royal Borough of Greenwich Virtual School will provide information to carers, educators and others where necessary

- Offer information to carers with children living in Kinship Arrangements and signpost them to other services for advice and support if necessary.
- Virtual Reality Trauma training
- Support advice and guidance around educational outcomes for children in Kinship Care
- Access to specific training such as positive masculinity training

We can offer support from the start of the kinship care arrangement until the child reaches the age of 18.

For further information around your Kinship child/ren's education, contact:

- Donna Murphy, Education Officer for Previously Looked After Children and Kinship Care

  donna.murphy@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

  07548 824041

- Joe Norton Jones, Assistant Head Virtual School

  joe.norton-jones@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

  07564 056040

  virtual-school-kinship@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

  Website: **virtualschoolgreenwich.org.uk**

5. Housing Support

For urgent housing issues, such as eviction, the Housing Inclusion team would assist households who are homeless or at imminent threat of homelessness. Information on who we may be able to assist, and how, as well as the link to our online homelessness application, can be found via the link below, taken from the Council's website.

Get help if you're homeless | Royal Borough of Greenwich

However, if somebody needs more general advice about moving to an alternative accommodation, for example because becoming a kinship carer has caused them to become overcrowded in their existing property, then they should in the first instance contact our Allocations team. Further information and contact details can be found in the link below.

Options for overcrowded council homes | Royal Borough of Greenwich

6. Disabled Children and Young People Service

Support for children and young people with complex disabilities aged 0 to 25.

The Disabled Children and Young People Service (DCYPS) team support children and young people with:

- severe learning disabilities
- severe physical disabilities
- severe and profound autistic spectrum disorders
- disability arising out of serious or chronic illness
- complex health needs
- severe vision or hearing impairment

Support for families

Parents or carers of disabled children and young people are entitled to request a:

- social work assessment. This does not always lead to additional support but may help you find other services that could meet your needs
- a carer's assessment to assess your own needs if you provide a significant amount of care to a disabled child.

This will be part of the Child and Family assessment, and services provided after should be included in the support plan.

Organisation: Royal Borough of Greenwich

Website: **royalgreenwich.gov.uk/send/parent-carer/caring-for-send-child/parent-carer-needs-assessment**

7. Greenwich Integrated Clinical team

Support children and young people who, because of their circumstances, may be vulnerable to developing mental health difficulties.

Support Provided to Kinship Carers

Individual clinical interventions drawing on a range of evidence based psychological interventions on an individual, family or group basis. The team will prioritise offering support to children, young people and families where there is a need for specialist mental health clinical involvement or will signpost to other appropriate services.

Consultation is available to Children's Services staff in order to support children and families where experiences of neglect/abuse/exploitation related safeguarding issues have had a significant impact on their emotional wellbeing, mental health and family functioning.

The ICT interventions would provide time limited (up to 6 months) episode of care to meet the needs of children, young people and families where CAMHS is not involved. This would be regularly reviewed by the Clinician along with the family and professional network to ascertain the need which could vary from 3 sessions to longer.

The age range of children or young people the service supports: 0-17 years old and 18-25 years care leavers.

Contact Information / Referral Details:

Name and role of key contact Binita Agrawal,
Clinical service Lead

Email: **GreenwichICT@royalgreenwich.gov.uk**

8. Family and Adolescent Support Service

Three Session Model

The parenting team offer a 3-session parenting model jointly with social workers who are allocated to children who are placed with a Kinship Carer. Working in a collaborative way has supported the ongoing direct work with the family and been a valuable resource when groupwork is not suitable for the family.

- The social workers are present in the session, as the lead professional can continue to work with the parent between sessions to reinforce the strategies and measure change in the parental response to children.
- The work provides a bespoke offer, allowing us to focus on specific parenting needs, as identified in the child's plan. Working in partnership with the social worker helps to measure the impact of the sessions.



9. Families Information Service

Find information here on childcare, activities and family support services across the borough.

Families Services Directory

Make sure that your child is in safe hands with our advice on finding a registered childminder. Choosing a childminder

Telephone: **020 8921 6921**

Email: **fis@royalgreenwich.gov.uk**

Website: **Families Information Service | Royal Borough of Greenwich**

10. Reunification Service – details to follow

Family Group Decision Making (FGDM)

Family Group Decision Making helps families come together to find solutions and make plans that support children safely within their family networks.

The Royal Borough of Greenwich may offer Family Group Decision Making:

- Before court proceedings begin
- When concerns are first identified
- When a child is unable to remain at home
- During reviews of support arrangements
- When reunification is being considered

The aim is to identify strengths within the family network and ensure family members are involved in planning for children at the earliest opportunity.

Contact details to be included

Family Relationships, Contact and Mediation

Kinship care often takes place within complex family relationships. Children may continue to have relationships with parents, siblings, grandparents and other important family members.

Support may be available to help families:

- Manage contact arrangements
- Improve communication
- Resolve disagreements
- Maintain positive relationships
- Strengthen family networks
- Support sibling relationships

Where appropriate, families may be offered facilitated conversations, family meetings or mediation services to support relationship-building and reduce conflict.

We recognise that maintaining family relationships can be important for children's identity, emotional wellbeing and long-term stability.

Contact details to be included

Who Delivers the Kinship Local Offer

All the services listed above are responsible for delivering the Kinship Local Offer. The Kinship Service will coordinate these services and ensure that kinship families receive the right support at the right time, based on their individual needs.

Partners involved in delivering the Local Offer include:

- Children's Services
- The Kinship Service
- Virtual School
- Family Hubs
- Early Help Services
- Housing Services
- SEND Services
- Health Partners
- Mental Health Services
- Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations

By working together, we aim to ensure kinship families receive timely, coordinated and effective support.

6. Type of support that carers, children and parents can receive under different arrangements

Support for Kinship Foster Carers in Greenwich

- **Fostering Social Worker:** Every kinship foster carer is assigned a dedicated fostering social worker who offers regular visits, advice, and support. The child will also have their own allocated social worker and access to multi-agency support, such as health reviews from the Looked After Children Health Team.
- **Financial Support:** Connected carers in Greenwich receive fostering fees and allowances, just like other foster carers in the borough.
- **Training and Development:** The Greenwich Fostering Service provides a full training programme for all carers, including connected carers, to help them feel confident and supported in their role.

Advice and support for carers

- Carers can get advice and support from Greenwich Kinship Service call **02089213268** or email **Kinship.Duty@royalgreenwich.gov.uk**

Additional support for carers include:

- Monthly support groups
- Men in fostering support group
- Fostering Network membership for independent advice

Find out more on our Fostering with Greenwich page.

Support for Special Guardianship carers in Greenwich

- Financial Support : If the Greenwich was involved when a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) was made, we may have offered a financial allowance to help with the child's care. A special guardianship support plan is required for all prospective Special Guardians, at the point of the order being granted outlining the child's and carer's support needs and the local authority's commitment to meeting them.
- Support groups Greenwich's Kinship Service runs support groups, events, and newsletters for special guardians in the borough or caring for Greenwich children. Email kinship duty for more details.
- Therapeutic support If a child was in the care of the local authority before a Special Guardianship Order was granted, the local authority may be able to apply for extra support through the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund.

This fund can help pay for therapeutic services—such as counselling, play therapy, or other emotional and behavioural support—for both the child and their carers. Access to this support is usually arranged through the Kinship Service.

Support for carer who have a Child Arrangement Order

Financial Support with a Child Arrangement Order

If the local authority was involved when a Child Arrangement Order was made, they may have offered a financial allowance to help with the child's care. Carers should have received a clear written agreement explaining this support at the time.

This allowance is separate from benefits like Child Tax Credit and won't affect your entitlement to other benefits.

Therapeutic support

If a child was in the care of the local authority before a Child Arrangement Order was granted, the local authority may be able to apply for extra support through the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund.

This fund can help pay for therapeutic services—such as counselling, play therapy, or other emotional and behavioural support—for both the child and their carers. Access to this support is usually arranged through the Kinship Service.



Support for Private Foster Carers

Kinship Social Worker: Every connected carer is assigned a dedicated kinship social worker who assesses the suitability of the private fostering arrangement and offers regular visits, advice, and support.

Support for Informal Kinship Carers

Children living in informal kinship arrangements may have needs similar to those of children living in formal kinship care arrangements.

If you are caring for a child without a court order, you are considered an **informal kinship carer**. Informal kinship carers can access all of the universal services outlined in **Section 5: Services Available to All Kinship Carers (Including Informal Arrangements) – Universal Services**.

Informal kinship carers are encouraged to contact the Kinship Duty Service if they require support that is not available through universal services. The Kinship Service can discuss any concerns or challenges you may be experiencing and provide advice, guidance, signposting, and referrals to other relevant services where appropriate.

Financial Support

Although informal kinship carers are not usually entitled to receive a kinship care allowance, the Kinship Service can provide guidance on the benefits and financial support that may be available.

Where appropriate, the team may also undertake a financial assessment to gain a better understanding of your family's circumstances and identify any support needs.

Any financial support provided by the local authority is discretionary and will only be considered in exceptional circumstances where there is evidence of significant need. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the individual circumstances of the child and their carers.

Kinship Support Plans

A Kinship Support Plan is a written agreement between your family and the relevant support agency. It sets out the services, support, and, where applicable, financial assistance your family needs.

Support plans are a legal requirement for families with a Special Guardianship Order. They help ensure that carers have the support needed to meet a child's health, education, emotional wellbeing, and family contact needs.

Greenwich is committed to ensuring that all kinship carers have a support plan that is developed in partnership with the carer and, where appropriate, the child.

Reviewing Your Support Plan

Support plans will be reviewed annually where there is ongoing involvement from the Kinship Service. They can also be reviewed at any time at the request of the carer if circumstances change or additional support is needed.

Kinship carers are encouraged to contact the Kinship Service following any significant life changes if they believe that they, or the child in their care, require additional support.

Review of Financial Arrangements

Any financial arrangements in place will be reviewed annually. This process is initiated by the Kinship Finance Service to ensure that support remains appropriate and reflects the family's current circumstances.

The financial arrangements in place will be reviewed every year and this is s a process initiated by the Kinship finance team.

Reviews and Ongoing Support

We recognise that families' needs change over time so the support should not be viewed as a one-off intervention.

Kinship carers can request advice or a review of support where circumstances change, including:

- Changes in family circumstances
- Changes in children's needs
- Housing difficulties
- Financial hardship
- Health issues
- Educational concerns

Where appropriate, support plans and assessments may be reviewed to ensure families continue to receive suitable assistance.

Families can contact the Kinship Service at any stage if they need help or guidance.



7. Self-care

Being a kinship carer can be an incredibly rewarding experience, but it can also be challenging, so it's important to think about self care.

The Royal Borough of Greenwich offers a wide range of wellbeing services to support residents' physical and mental health, including specialized programs for children, young people, and families. Here's an overview of the key services available:

Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing

- Bromley, Lewisham and Greenwich Mind: Provides social groups and drop-in services for adults experiencing mental health challenges. **South East London Mind | mental health and dementia services**
- Kooth: An anonymous online counselling service for 11–19-year-olds, offering mood tracking, self-help resources, and peer support. Available weekdays from 12–10 pm and weekends from 6–10 pm. **Home - Kooth**
- Volunteer Centre Greenwich: Offers telephone befriending, walk-and-talk sessions, and emotional wellbeing support for adults experiencing loneliness or isolation. **www.vcgreenwich.org.uk**

Children, Young People & Families

- Young Greenwich: Provides free or affordable activities, trips, and classes for children and young people aged 8–19 (up to 25 with SEND) in a safe and welcoming environment. **Young Greenwich Youth Services**
- Children's Centres: Offer support and advice for families, including health services, parenting support, and family outreach. **Children's centres | Royal Borough of Greenwich**

Physical Health & Lifestyle Support

- Live Well Greenwich: Offers advice and support on topics such as healthy eating, physical activity, smoking cessation, and managing long-term conditions. **Live Well Greenwich | Healthy living activities around Greenwich, London**
- Royal Greenwich Community Champions: A volunteer program that shares health and wellbeing information within communities to promote healthy lifestyles. **Become a Community Champion | Royal Borough of Greenwich**
- Greenwich Community Directory: An online resource listing local services to help residents live well in Greenwich. **Home | Greenwich Community Directory**

Support for Carers

- Greenwich Carers Centre: Provides support for individuals caring for family members or friends, including advice, information, and respite services. **Live Well Greenwich | Healthy living activities around Greenwich, London**

Educational & Training Opportunities

- Make Every Opportunity Count (MEOC): Free online training to help residents signpost others to local services and support. **Make Every Opportunity Count :: Social Change**
- RSPH Understanding Health Improvement Training: Accredited 2-day training open to anyone in Greenwich interested in improving community health and wellbeing. **RSPH | Level 2 Understanding Health Improvement**
- Greenwich Learns: Offers adult and community learning courses to support personal development and wellbeing. **Adult learning courses in Greenwich, London**

For more information or to access these services, you can visit the Royal Borough of Greenwich's Health and Wellbeing page or contact the Live Well Greenwich helpline at **0800 470 4831**.

- **Every mind matters** – offers guidance on breathing techniques
- NHS guidance – **How to meditate for beginners**
- NHS guidance – **What is mindfulness?**
- Action for happiness **Mindful Grateful Kind meditation guidance (YouTube)**
- **Mindful Moment: Breathing through difficulty (YouTube)**
- **Mindful Moment: Loving kindness (YouTube)**
- **Mindful Moment: Finding hope (YouTube)**
- **Mindful Moment: Seeing with new eyes (YouTube)**
- **Mindful Moment: Connecting to something bigger (YouTube)**
- **Awareness: Live life mindfully**
- **Meditation Magazine Blog** – a forum where blogs are posted to support mental health and mindfulness

8. Specialist kinship advice and support

Specialist kinship advice and support can also be accessed through the following organisations.

Looking after someone else's child provides government guidance on support and benefits you can get if you're looking after someone else's child.

Kinship.org is a national charity that provides a range of advice, support and guidance to kinship carers.

Family Rights Group is a charity that advises families whose children are involved with children's services. They have a confidential advice service for parents and family and friends carers.

PAC-UK provides specialist independent advice, counselling, training and educational advice for those affected by adoption, Special Guardianship and other forms of permanent care.

CoramBAAF is a charity dedicated to improving lives for children and young people in care.

Support for children and young people

Greenwich is keen to understand children's lived experiences and to work wiht them to shape the way we deliver our services. The children's voice should be sought and present through our work with them and all efforts should be made to gather their views not only to infuence the way the support plans are written but also strategic service development.

"Your Voice Matters"

Children and young people should have opportunities to be involved in decisions that affect their lives.

We will:

- Listen to children and young people's views when support plans are developed and reviewed.
- Ensure children understand decisions being made about them in a way that is appropriate to their age and understanding.
- Support children to express their wishes and feelings.
- Consider children's views when services are reviewed and developed.
- Seek feedback from children and young people to improve our Kinship Local Offer.

Children and young people can also access independent advocacy where appropriate.

No decision about a child should be made without considering their voice and lived experience.

Some of the services available to you as a child living in a Kinship arrangement.

1. **NextGen** offers a variety of services and activities for young people aged between 8 and 19. They aim to provide opportunities that help children and young people thrive and reach their full potential.

   A list of services that may be relevant and beneficial can be found here **Young Greenwich Youth Services**

2. **Xplore** - Xplore is a healthy lifestyle programme that provides a friendly, fun and safe environment to help children, young people and their families lead healthier lifestyles and become more active. **Xplore | Healthy Lifestyle Programme | Greenwich**

3. **Childline** - Childline is here to help anyone under 19 in the UK with any issue they're going through. You can talk about anything. Whether it's something big or small, our trained counsellors are here to support you. Childline is free, confidential and available any time, day or night.

   Open 24 hours tel: **020 7616 9999**

4. **Kooth** Free, safe and anonymous, online mental health and emotional wellbeing support for children and young people in Greenwich. Home - Kooth

5. **Support with Mental Health** **Young People Archive - Live Well Greenwich**

6. **CAMHS** - provides a service to children, young people and families who live in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. If you need urgent help for your mental health, but it's not an emergency:

   You can contact crisis line on **020 3228 5980** Monday to Friday 5pm-10pm and Saturday to Sunday 9am to 10pm.

   At all other times, please contact the Oxleas Crisis line on **0800 330 8590**, open 24 hours a day.



Support for birth parents

PAC-UK is an organisation supporting birth parents, adopted people, adoptive parents, prospective adopters and special guardians through the realities of adoption and special guardianship.

You can contact their advice line directly by phone at **0300 1800 090** or by email at **advice@pac-uk.or**g.

Pause is a national charity that works to improve the lives of women who have had – or are at risk of having – more than one child removed from their care, and the services and systems that affect them.

pause-info@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Support for parents:

- Family hubs and children's centres – our centres are at the heart of all things family, providing a range of support and activities
- Togetherness – free online courses for parents, carers, grandparents, and teens. These courses can help you understand your child's feelings (and your own), supporting them through different stages of growing up and building stronger family relationships.
- Caring Connections – a 4-week creative course for pregnant mums and mothers to babies under 2.
- Baby massage sessions – massage can help babies relax, sleep better, become more aware of their bodies and ease common discomforts such as wind, colic, or teething. Baby massage also supports communication and learning. The eye contact, smiles and turn taking you share during massage help your baby feel loved and secure, while also laying the foundations for early language and conversation skills.
- Parent Power – helps parents and carers raise confident, happy children by offering practical support, coaching and family activities. They run regular workshops at Plumstead library called 'extra help for you on perinatal parenting'.
- Mindful Mums – offers free groups for women to learn more about looking after themselves, staying emotionally well, and developing confidence and social connections during pregnancy and in the first year after birth

Support for dads

- Being Dad – Get help navigating fatherhood from other men with their own experience of looking after themselves as dads or male caregivers.

- Future Dads - Future Men – Join this course for new and expectant dads that demonstrates practical and emotional approaches to taking care of themselves, their partner and their baby.
- Dad.info – A community of men championing fatherhood and exploring what it is to be a dad in twenty-first century Britain. Features latest news, things to help you along the way and online and offline support

Moving to Adulthood

Planning for adulthood should begin early and will take account of the young person's individual strengths, aspirations and support needs. Professionals will work with young people, kinship carers and families to identify goals and ensure the right support is available at each stage of the transition. Young people may also receive advice and support to help them understand their rights, make informed decisions about their future, and access opportunities that promote independence, education, employment and wellbeing.

Where young people are eligible for Leaving Care Services, information about available support, entitlements and ongoing assistance will be provided. This may include support from a Personal Adviser, pathway planning, education and employment support, housing advice, and help to develop independent living skills. For young people with SEND, transition planning should be person-centred and coordinated across education, health and social care services. This helps ensure continuity of support as they move towards adulthood and adult services where required. The Royal Borough of Greenwich will work in partnership with young people, kinship carers, families and partner agencies to support successful transitions into adulthood. Wherever possible, young people will be encouraged to maintain positive and supportive family relationships and networks that can continue to provide guidance, stability and emotional support throughout their adult lives.

Keeping children safe

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and keeping children safe is at the heart of everything we do. Kinship carers play a vital role in providing children with a safe, stable and nurturing environment where they can thrive. As a kinship carer, you may become aware of concerns about a child's welfare, behaviour, emotional wellbeing, or circumstances that could place them at risk. It is important that concerns are shared as early as possible so that appropriate support and protection can be provided. You should seek advice or support if you have concerns about:

- A child's safety, welfare, health or emotional wellbeing
- Contact arrangements with parents, family members or other significant adults
- Domestic abuse or controlling behaviour within the family
- Drug or alcohol misuse affecting a child or household member
- Child exploitation, including criminal, sexual or online exploitation
- Neglect, inadequate supervision, or unmet basic needs
- Housing difficulties, homelessness, overcrowding or instability
- Bullying, discrimination or concerns relating to a child's education
- Mental health concerns affecting the child or a family member
- Missing episodes or situations where a child may be at risk outside the home

If you believe a child is suffering, or is at immediate risk of suffering, significant harm, you should contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) immediately. In an emergency, where there is an immediate danger to a child or another person, call 999. The Kinship Service can provide advice, guidance and support if you are unsure whether a concern needs to be reported. They can help you understand safeguarding procedures, access specialist services, and identify appropriate support for both you and the child in your care. Training, information and resources relating to safeguarding are available to kinship carers to help recognise signs of abuse, neglect and exploitation, understand your responsibilities, and build confidence in responding to concerns. No concern is too small to discuss. Seeking advice early can help prevent problems from escalating and ensure that children receive the right support at the right time.

9. Conclusion

Kinship carers play a vital role in providing stability, love, and continuity for children who are unable to live with their birth parents. This Local Offer is designed to recognise that contribution and ensure kinship families have access to the support, information, and services they need to thrive. Whether you're new to the role or have been caring for a child for years, you're not alone, our community, local services, and professionals are here to walk alongside you every step of the way.

We are committed to continually improving our support based on your feedback and needs. If there is something missing from this offer or you need additional help, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Together, we can build a stronger, more supportive future for every kinship family.

This Kinship Local Offer will be reviewed September 2027





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