

## Special Guardian Network

### News and information for Special Guardian families in Essex

Dear Special Guardian,

The school summer holidays are almost upon us. How quick is this year going.

As always, we would like to keep you up to date with news and developments within the SGO Support Team. Please do contact us at any time, if you need guidance, advice, and support. This month's newsletter includes reminders of our upcoming events over the summer months and details of our conference and It's My Life our big event held at Danbury Outdoors and training.

Kind Regards  
SGO Support Team

### It's My Life 2024 – Danbury Outdoors Friday 16th August

We would love it if as many of you as possible can join us at this year's "It's My Life" event at Danbury Outdoors. It promises to be lots of fun!! This event is open to everyone living in your household.



Time: Arrive from 10:15 – start 10:30am - 14:30pm  
The activities this year include will be confirmed soon.

- Teas and Coffee will be available throughout the day
- Crisps and snacks will be provided but please bring your packed lunch

If you would like to attend, please email [Clair.Prior@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Clair.Prior@essex.gov.uk) who can book your places. You will need to complete the consent form on the day.

## Family Finance and Budgeting Course

**With all of our budgets being tight we are delighted to offer those interested an opportunity to take part in an online course that provides practical tips and strategies for creating and managing a family budget effectively.**

The course runs over 3 sessions, each session is 1.30 mins

Sessions include:

- Assessing Income / Budgeting /Financial Goal Setting
- Expense tracking / Money-Saving Strategies and Skills
- Debt management / Savings
- Family Communication and Collaboration

Everyone gets a Costa Coffee voucher to celebrate completing the course and an attendance certificate once you have completed your course feedback. The next available course starts on **Tuesday July 9th: Family Finance and Budgeting (Online) at 19:00**

If you can't make some of the dates during the course, don't worry all the sessions are recorded and you can watch them later in your own time.

**To make a referral for the course please [email clair.prior@essex.gov.uk](mailto:clair.prior@essex.gov.uk) with your name and contact details including your email address.**

## Kinship Care Conference

We are delighted to invite you to our third conference connecting all friends and family carers.

**The theme will be understanding SEND and the Virtual School and support on offer to families. We will also be joined by Tom Bucher from Kinship Organisation who will give an overview of the support they offer Kinship carers. Please don't miss this opportunity that will be full of helpful information, guidance and offers of support to you and your family!!**

Date: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

Arrive: 9:45am for coffee, 10:00am Start

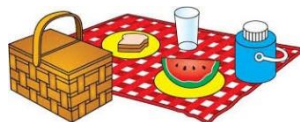
Finish: 2:30pm

Lunch will be provided.

Address: The Keene Hall Watchhouse Road, Galleywood, Chelmsford, CM2 8PT

Please email Clair to book a place. [Clair.prior@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Clair.prior@essex.gov.uk)

## Summer Picnic Dates August 2024



**Harlow - Wednesday 7th August 11am to 1pm at Harlow Town Park,** Park Lane, Harlow CM20 2QQ. Meet at the café Park in School Lane.

**Canvey Island - Thursday 15th August 11am to 1.30pm at Northlands Park,** Pitsea, SS13 1SD

**Clacton - Friday 9th August 11am at Weeley Village Hall,** Clacton Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO16 9DH

**Cressing - Friday 23rd August 11am to 1pm at Great Notley Country Park,** Great Notley, Braintree, CM77 7FS

**Basildon - Thursday 22nd August at 11.30am at Langdon Hills Country Park,** in Westley Heights, Langdon Hills, Basildon SS16 5LT

There is no need to book and members of the SGO Support team will be at all of the picnics. Please bring your own bring and share lunch, please also feel free to bring garden games, balls etc to keep the children and maybe adults entertained.

## Upcoming coffee mornings

The space of the Special Guardians' coffee mornings may give you an opportunity to connect, share, and hopefully feel more supported by people going through a similar experience while creating a sense of community.

***Please be reminded that it is not appropriate for children to attend our coffee mornings, due to the adult content of some of the discussions.***

Area	Venue	Date and Time
Basildon	<b>Trenham Community Centre Wilsner, Pitsea, Basildon SS13 1HW</b>	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 <i>9.30am to 11.30am</i>
Clacton	Weeley Village Hall, Clacton Rd, Weeley, Weeley Heath, Clacton-on-Sea, CO16 9DH	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 <i>10am to noon</i>
Canvey Island	Leigh Beck Infant School, Point Road, Canvey Island, SS8 7TD	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 <i>9.30am to 11.30am</i>
Cressing	St. Barnabas Church Hall, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing, CM77 8HG	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 <i>10am to noon</i>
Harlow	Woodlands Family Centre, 9 Peterswood, Harlow, CM18 7RJ	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2024 <i>10am to noon</i>
Virtual	Via Teams – link sent out the day before	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 <i>10am to noon</i>



## **Therapeutic Nurturing Attachment Group**

Working in partnership with Families Empowered we can provide our Nurturing Attachment Groups.

A Nurturing Attachment Group is a therapeutic programme designed to provide support, guidance and insight for parents, guardians and carers of children who have experienced early life trauma and loss. Group members can share experiences and ideas in a safe, non-judgemental space with others who understand what they are going through – often in a way that family and friends are not always able to do. Groups normally have between 6-10 members and once formed are a closed group. There are 18 sessions (3 modules of 6 sessions), held in term time only from 10am-1pm or 6.30pm-9.30pm for evening groups and once formed are closed groups.

Online groups use Zoom-Pro and we provide an electronic and hard copy of the module handbook. This is a great opportunity for families who have been keen to access support and additional learning around therapeutic ways of parenting.

The next groups commence:

**Thursdays Daytime Online 10am to 1pm** - Module One commences 5<sup>th</sup> September, Module Two commences 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and Module Three 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

**Wednesday Daytime Face to Face 10am to 1pm – Chelmsford** – Module One commences 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024, Module Two commences 8<sup>th</sup> January and Module Three 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**Wednesday Evening Online 6.30pm to 9.30pm** – Module one commences 8<sup>th</sup> January, Module Two 26<sup>th</sup> February and Module Three 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025.

If you would like to attend, please let me know and I will reserve you a place.

## **Kinship care survey – are you able to help us gather evidence about what kinship families need?**

The Family Rights Group, a national charity, which supports children to live safely and thrive within their family are campaigning for more recognition and better support for kinship carers.

Can you help inform their message to government by completing their survey on this link [Survey:](#) or on their website (details below)

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/55NGL3Q>**



## Contact Details

[sgo.support@essex.gov.uk](mailto:sgo.support@essex.gov.uk)

Tel: 03330139860

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/special-guardianship>

**Children & Families Hub: 0345 603 7627**

**After hours - Emergency Duty Team: 0345 606 1212**

Mon - Thurs 5.00pm - 8.45am and Fri 4.30pm - Mon 8.45am inc. Bank holidays

If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, please let us know by emailing [sgo.support@essex.gov.uk](mailto:sgo.support@essex.gov.uk) and we will remove you from our mailing list.