

News and information for Kinship families in Essex

Dear Kinship Carer,

We trust you had a delightful summer break and took pleasure in the fine weather. We hope you're rejuvenated and eager for the autumn term.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the "It's My Life" event at Danbury Outdoors. We trust that you had a fantastic time, forged new friendships, and enjoyed the array of activities available.

As usual, we aim to keep you informed about the latest news and developments within the Kinship Team. Remember, we are always here if you require guidance, advice, or support.

We would also like to highlight the details of our forthcoming Kinship Care Conference, coffee mornings, and training opportunities.

Best wishes
SGO Support Team/Kinship Service

Kinship Care Conference

Don't Miss Out on Our Third Kinship Care Conference—A Must-Attend Event for All Friends and Family Carers!



We're excited to invite you to a truly unmissable event—our third Kinship Care Conference. This session is designed to bring together all friends and family carers for an invaluable opportunity to connect, learn, and grow.

This time, we'll focus on understanding SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and the Virtual School, diving deep into the support available to you and your family. Tom Bucher from the Kinship Organisation will also be joining us to provide an insightful overview of the resources and assistance they offer to Kinship carers.

This conference is packed with essential information, practical guidance, and a wealth of support—tailored specifically to help you navigate the challenges of caring for your loved ones. Whether you have questions about SEND, EHCPs (Education, Health, and Care Plans), or school-related concerns, this is the event you can't afford to miss.

Your presence is crucial. This isn't just another meeting—it's a vital chance to equip yourself with the knowledge and tools that can make a real difference in your life and the lives of those you care for.

Mark your calendar and join us for a session that promises to be both informative and empowering.

Date: Monday 23rd September 2024

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

Finish: 2:30pm

Lunch will be provided.

Address:

The Keene Hall Watchouse Road

Galleywood

Chelmsford

CM2 8PT

Please email Clair to book a place. Clair.prior@essex.gov.uk

Family Finance and Budgeting Course

This online course 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. The next available dates are:

Starting Tuesday June 11th: Family Finance and Budgeting (Online) at 19:00

Starting Tuesday July 9th: Family Finance and Budgeting (Online) at 19:00

If they can't make some of the dates during the course, don't worry all our 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.



Achievements – GCSE's, A-Levels and More

We are eager to learn about your child or young person's accomplishments in recent months. Be it SAT results, exam scores, sports achievements, mastering bike riding, or competition victories—the possibilities are limitless! No matter the scale, we'd love to hear about them. Celebrating these successes is crucial.



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	Trenham Community Centre Wilsner, Pitsea, Basildon SS13 1HW	Thursday 19th September and 24th October 2024 9.30am to 11.30am

Clacton	Weeley Village Hall, Clacton Rd, Weeley, Weeley Heath, Clacton-on-Sea, CO16 9DH	Friday 6th September and 11th October 2024 <i>10am to noon</i>
Canvey Island	Leigh Beck Infant School, Point Road, Canvey Island, SS8 7TD	Thursday 12th September 17th October 2024 <i>9.30am to 11.30am</i>
Cressing	St. Barnabas Church Hall, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing, CM77 8HG	Friday 20th September and 25th October 2024 <i>10am to noon</i>
Harlow	Woodlands Family Centre, 9 Peterswood, Harlow, CM18 7RJ	Wednesday 4th September and 2nd October 2024 <i>10am to noon</i>
Virtual	Via Teams – link sent out the day before	Tuesday 10th September and 8th October 2024 <i>10am to noon</i>

Articles for Special Guardians and Kinship Carers



We recognize that life can sometimes be challenging, and you might need support. Our Clinical Lead for Adoption and Special Guardianship, in collaboration with a mental health coordinator, have authored two articles that could be beneficial to you. The first article is a guide on supporting young people who are using drugs and alcohol, and the second is a guide on seeking therapeutic support for parents of children who have suffered developmental trauma. If you are interested in receiving either of these guides, please inform us, and we will send them to you.

Training Opportunities through Kinship Compass

Compass are an independent online information, advice, and support hub just for kinship carers run by Kinship. They hold a number of free

workshops. With the following planned for August. You can sign up for these using this link [workshops ready to sign your kinship carers up to](#) or <https://compass.kinship.org.uk/training-and-events/>

- EHCP/SEND Processes
- Preparing for Sensitive Conversations
- Understanding trauma and attachment

As always, they also have their peer support and Someone Like Me services running, as well as our online and phone line advice support. <https://compass.kinship.org.uk/> or call them 0300 123 7015

Contact Details

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

Last but not least, we would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for the wonderful caring task you do every day!!

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

