

News and information for Kinship families in Essex

Dear Kinship Carer,

We had another successful Kinship Conference on the 23rd September, joined by a number of Kinship carers! These conferences are additional opportunities for you to not only get more information around certain subjects but also to connect with other Kinship carers in the same position as yourself. The focus of the day was on SEND, Virtual School and Kinship Organisation support. We will soon send you information for each service which you may find helpful.

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 like to highlight the details of our forthcoming Christmas Parties, coffee mornings, and training opportunities.

Best wishes
SGO Support Team/Kinship Service

Christmas Events

Please come and join us for some Christmas fun. There will be festive activities and refreshments.



- **West Essex**

Date: Saturday 7th December

Time: 10am till 12 midday

Venue: Great Parndon Community Centre, Abercrombie Way,
Harlow CM18 6YJ

- **South Essex**

Date: Saturday 7th December

Time: 10am to 12 Midday

Venue: Trenham Community Centre, Wilsner, Basildon, Essex
SS13 1HW

- **North Essex**

Date: Saturday 7th December

Time: 2pm till 4pm

Venue: Weeley Village Hall, Clacton Road, Weeley, Weeley
Heath, Clacton-on-Sea, CO16 9DH

If you are planning to attend, please telephone us on 033301 39860 or email SGO.Support@essex.gov.uk providing your name and how many children are attending with you. **Please let us know if anyone attending has special dietary needs or allergies.**

Please note that only Special Guardians and their children can attend and not birth parents.

Grants, Charities and Discounts

CEA Card – The Card enables a disabled cinema guest to receive a complimentary ticket for someone to go with them when they visit a participating cinema. The cost of the card is just £6 per year.

Eligibility - To apply, the person requiring assistance must be 5 years of age or older and be in receipt of one of the following:

Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Attendance Allowance (AA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP). For further information and to apply <https://www.ceacard.co.uk/>

MAX Card – The Max Card is the UK's leading discount card for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Families can use their Max Card at venues across the UK to get free or discounted admission to over 1.100 attractions.

Every child or young person registered with Essex Short Breaks is able to access a Max Card through their Short Breaks account and the card can be used until the young person is 25 years old.

The card is the property of the registered child or young person. To use the discount, the child must be present.

You will need your cards at the venue to use the discount. Venues have the right to ask for your proof of identity when you use the card.

<https://shortbreaks.essex.gov.uk/what-are-essex-short-breaks/max-cards-and-tickets/>

Essex Youth Service and Young Essex Assembly

The Essex Youth Service help young people in Essex to get the most out of school, work and life. They offer youth groups all across Essex and a wide range of other groups and opportunities for young people. Please visit there website for further details <https://youth.essex.gov.uk/young-people/>

The Young Essex Assembly (YEA) is the elected youth council for Essex and is supported by [Essex Youth Service](#). There are [75 YEA members](#), representing all districts across Essex. The YEA review priorities and consult with young people as well as campaigning to make a positive difference for young people in Essex.

As a member of the YEA you will have the opportunity to be heard by members of Essex County Council, local and national organisations as well as other youth groups. The YEA work hard to improve the lives of young people in Essex and make important decisions on their behalf. All YEA Members represent young people within their communities and engage with those young people to ensure they have their voices heard and represent them fully.

The members of the Young Essex Assembly meet once every month, we call these meetings 'sittings'. You will also be a part of an area group working on local issues. Each member is asked to take part in another group, which focuses on current work the YEA is undertaking. These are called 'Sub-Groups'.

YEA members meet monthly in their local areas to work on local issues.

All sittings are held within the County and will often take place on a Saturday or on a day during the school holidays. Smaller meetings, which involve the sub-groups, usually take place during an evening mid-week. Each Sub-Group will feed back to the main Assembly.

Six members of the YEA are also elected yearly to represent Essex within the [UK Youth Parliament](#).

For more information, visit www.young-essex-assembly.org.uk

Or contact us at yea@essex.gov.uk



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 21st November 2024 <i>9.30am to 11.30am</i>
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 17th October and 14 th November 2024 <i>9.30am to 11.30am</i>
Cressing	St. Barnabas Church Hall, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing, CM77 8HG	Friday 25th October and 15 th November 2024 <i>10am to noon</i>
Harlow		Wednesday 2nd October and 6 th November 2024

	Woodlands Family Centre, 9 Peterswood, Harlow, CM18 7RJ	10am to noon
Virtual	Via Teams – link sent out the day before	Tuesday 8th October and 5 th November 2024 10am to noon



Support and 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](https://compass.kinship.org.uk/training-and-events/) 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.

