

## Support for Kinship carers

Becoming a Kinship carer can feel daunting but there are many organisations and people to support the Kinship Community:

- **Midlothian Council Children's Services**
  - The child's social worker – they can answer questions about the child or young person's plan. They are based at Eskdail Court  
0131 271 3413
  - Duty Team – based at Eskdail Court  
0131 271 3413
  - Emergency Social Work Service (ESWS)  
0800 731 6969
- **The Family Centred Care Team**

They can provide advice, guidance and access to training. They can also answer questions about the process and what to expect in becoming a kinship carer.  
0131 271 3615 [kinship@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:kinship@midlothian.gov.uk)
- **Grandparents Parenting again and Kinship Carers Midlothian** - are on Facebook and meet at 9.30 on Thursdays at Gorebridge Parish Church (term time only)  
[kinshipcarersadvocacy@gmail.com](mailto:kinshipcarersadvocacy@gmail.com)
- **Kinship Care Advice Service Scotland (KCASS).**

They provide support and advice. [advice@kinshipscot.org](mailto:advice@kinshipscot.org)  
<https://kinship.scot/>
- **Children First Support Line**  
0800 028 2233

# Becoming a Kinship carer

We try to keep children within their family and wider network wherever it is safe and possible to do so.

You might be asked to care for a child during a family crisis or if there are concerns about their safety and wellbeing. This could be for a short time or on a permanent basis.

Staying with family or a family friend can help a child feel safe if their parents are unable to care for them.



## What we expect from you.

- To care for the child safely.
- To work with us, the wider family, and other professionals to meet the child's needs
- To let us know of changes that impact on your ability to care for the child.
- To attend meetings and be involved in planning for the child's future.
- To support a child having time with their parents or other family.

This is set out in the kinship carer agreement and support plan.



## What you can expect from us

- We will carry out a kinship assessment if the placement is likely to last longer than 72 hours. We have a duty to do this within 12 weeks. This involves a health review, references and meeting with a social worker to discuss your background, experience in caring for children and your ability to keep the child safe. The social worker will recommend whether a placement is suitable in the short and long term.
- We will police check everyone in the home over 16.
- We will make sure the home is suitable for the child.
- We will keep you updated on the child's plan.
- We can offer practical and emotional support to help meet the child's needs.
- We will pay you an allowance for each child placed in your care.

## Longer Term Kinship Care

If a child needs permanent care away from their parents you can consider applying for a legal order to secure them in your care longer term.

A Kinship Care Order can give you parental responsibilities and rights. In the past this has been called a Section 11 or residence order.

If you are considering this you should discuss this with the child's social worker and seek independent legal advice from a solicitor.

In some circumstances Midlothian Council can support you with the financial costs of applying for a Kinship Care Order. Please discuss this with the child's social worker or contact Children's Services at [Kinship@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Kinship@midlothian.gov.uk)