

Kinship Support Service

Children and families at the heart



Nottinghamshire
County Council

In Nottinghamshire, we recognise that kinship carers play a vital role in supporting children, often making remarkable sacrifices to keep their families together.

As children grow older there can be new challenges at different stages of development, such as the move from primary to secondary school, entering adolescence, or past experiences of trauma. There may also be needs and behaviours more specific to your child.

For carers, you may find your jobs or long-term plans have been disrupted by the need to raise your child, with some carers experiencing financial difficulties, as well as emotional stress arising from court processes, and maintaining a relationship with your other family members.

As part of the Nottinghamshire Plan, we've set up a **Kinship Support Service** which is on hand to support all families in a Kinship arrangement, whether you have a Special Guardianship Order, Child Arrangement Order or a private/informal arrangement.

Your Kinship Support Service

If you want to access any kind of support and are unsure what is available, please contact the Kinship Support Service via email: kinshipsupport@nottscc.gov.uk or phone: 0115 804 1407.

Our team of social workers, family workers and welfare rights officers can offer targeted support, general advice, and signposting to local or national support groups.

Some of the support we offer includes:

- ✓ Reviewing special guardianship order support plans, or care plans for families on other legal orders
- ✓ Training to prepare you for being a kinship carer and to support you once the child is in your care
- ✓ Advice about kinship allowances, benefits entitlements and education entitlements
- ✓ Life story work for children growing up in a kinship arrangement
- ✓ Support applying for the Adoption Support Fund on behalf of eligible kinship families who would benefit from therapeutic services



Whatever support you need, it's important to realise that **it's ok to ask for help.**



- ✓ Being available during office hours if you need to get in touch, online information and out of hours support when you need it.
- ✓ Membership of, or signposting to, kinship support groups through our partners in the voluntary sector.

To find out more please contact our **Kinship Support Service**, on either **0115 804 1407** or email: kinshipsupport@nottscc.gov.uk



External Support for Kinship families

Kinship Reach

Nottinghamshire County Council has commissioned leading national charity Kinship to provide independent virtual support to our kinship families. Common issues Kinship Reach can support with include:

- Emotional distress, often around family breakdown – bereavement, imprisonment, mental health of birth parents
- Isolation & loneliness
- Emotional & physical exhaustion
- Financial crisis, particularly around stopping work to become a kinship carer
- Health concerns
- Managing relationships with family members – particularly around contact
- Housing concerns – unsuitable housing for taking on kinship role
- Lack of digital skills
- Children's behaviour & wellbeing, including answering difficult questions about life story.



To access Kinship Reach or discover more, we'd recommend contacting the Kinship Support Service for a referral, or you can self-refer online via this webpage - <https://kinship.org.uk/for-kinship-carers/get-more-support/free-support/>



Someone Like Me

A volunteer-delivered telephone peer support service offered by Kinship charity.
<https://kinship.org.uk/for-kinship-carers/connect-with-other-kinship-carers/speak-to-a-someone-like-me-volunteer/>

Family Rights Group

A national charity that advises parents, grandparents, relatives and friends about their rights and options. <https://frg.org.uk/>

Hetty's

Specialist kinship support packages for Nottinghamshire families with experience of addiction and peer groups open to all families.

<https://www.hettys.org.uk/kinship-care/>

Other support available

For a list of organisations that support fostering, adoption, and kinship, please explore the Family Rights Group Website.

<https://frg.org.uk/get-help-and-advice/useful-links/>

Out of hours phoneline

Our out of hours phoneline is now open to Kinship Carers as well as adopters and foster carers. Out of Hours staff are qualified and there to listen and support when you are going through a challenging time.

You can contact the out of hours service on **0800 085 8995**.

Please note that the service operates from **6.00pm - 10.00pm** Monday to Friday **10.00am until 10.00pm** weekends and bank holidays

Please note, if you have an urgent safeguarding concern this must be referred to the council's **Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** via **0300 500 8090**.

In an emergency out of hours, please call **Emergency Duty Team** on **0300 456 4546**.

If a child is in immediate risk of danger of harm, please call the emergency services on 999.



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

W nottinghamshire.gov.uk
E kinshippupport@nottsc.gov.uk
T 0115 8041 407