

## Special Guardian Network

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

Dear Special Guardian,

We hope you all had a good half term break.

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 next Conference.

We would also love to hear of any achievements that your children and young people have made this year whether that is at school, hobbies and new interests. Big or small please let us know.

Kind Regards  
SGO Support Team

### **It's My Life 2024 – Danbury Outdoors Friday 16th August - Save the Date**

We are pleased to announce that we will once again be holding the It's My Life event at Danbury Outdoors.

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

Details of how to book will be sent out in due course.

## 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](mailto:clair.prior@essex.gov.uk) [clair.prior@essex.gov.uk](mailto:clair.prior@essex.gov.uk) with your name and contact details including your email address.**

## Essex Family and Friends connected event – Save the Date

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding our third event connecting all friends and family carers. **The theme will be SEND and the Virtual School.**

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

## 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

## 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>From June 2024 until further notice the venue will be -</b> Trenham Community Centre Wilsner, Pitsea, Basildon SS13 1HW	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June and 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2024  9.30am to 11.30am
Clacton	Weeley Village Hall, Clacton Rd, Weeley, Weeley Heath, Clacton-on-Sea, CO16 9DH	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June and 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2024  10am to noon

Canvey Island	Leigh Beck Infant School, Point Road, Canvey Island, SS8 7TD	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June and 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 14 <sup>th</sup> June and 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2024  <i>10am to noon</i>
Harlow	Woodlands Family Centre, 9 Peterswood, Harlow, CM18 7RJ	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June and 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2024  <i>10am to noon</i>
Virtual	Via Teams – link sent out the day before	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June and 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2024  10am to noon



## Training opportunities through Kinship Compass

Compass are an independent online information, advice, and support hub just for kinship carers run by Kinship. They offer a number of free workshops on the following topics:

- Understanding trauma and attachment in children workshop
- Better communication and the teenage years workshop
- Managing contact for kinship families – practical tools and tips workshop
- Building resilience and wellbeing in your kinship family workshop
- Preparing for sensitive conversations with kinship children workshop

- How to improve challenging behaviour workshop
- Managing contact for kinship families – the emotional journey workshop
- Overview of the EHCP and SEND process workshop
- Understanding trauma and attachment in children workshop

These are run online and for around 1 ½ hours and repeated often and different times of the day. These are all free. See their website for details of how to book on. <https://compass.kinship.org.uk/>

## Family Routes Research – still time to take part

Family Routes is a brand-new, ground-breaking study about the **lives of teenagers and young adults and their adoptive and special guardianship families**. The research aims to give a voice to these families through interviews and questionnaires about family life, including things that are going well or things families might be struggling with. Questions ask about families, important relationships, school/college, wellbeing, and any support needs.

### Visit the study website to find out more.

- Scan the QR code, or
- Visit: <https://familyroutes.ipsos.com>, or
- Register by emailing [family.routes@ecorys.com](mailto:family.routes@ecorys.com) (please include a phone number) or ring the study team on **08081759341**.
- Young people aged 12-17 years will need parent/carer consent to take part.

The study is funded by the Department for Education and is being run by Ecorys UK, in partnership with Professor Julie Selwyn at the Rees Centre (University of Oxford) and Ipsos. Previous similar studies have led to the government introducing new support for families like the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund and extra support in schools. So, taking part really does matter, as families views and experience can make a difference. **Thank you. Please see attached poster for further details.**



## 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.