

News and information for Kinship Families in Essex



Dear Kinship Carer,

As the autumn leaves begin to fall, we're excited to share a packed newsletter full of opportunities for kinship carers and young people to come together and connect.

Kinship Care Week: 6th–12th October

This national week shines a spotlight on the incredible contributions of kinship carers across England and Wales. It's a time to raise awareness, offer recognition, and celebrate the vital role these families play in the lives of children and in our communities. Despite growing national attention, many still aren't familiar with what kinship care truly means—so this week is all about honouring the love, commitment, and care that kinship carers provide every day.

We hope to see many of you at our upcoming events and gatherings.

We would like to extend a huge personal thank you to each and every one of you for the commitment and care you offer family / friends children in your care. We are acutely aware of the sacrifices you have made with love and want you to know that we are here to support you!

Best wishes

Kinship Post Order Support Team

Upcoming Events

Kinship Conference Monday 6th October 2025 reminder

As part of Kinship Care Week, we have our conference on Monday 6th October at Keene Hall, Galleywood.



If you have booked your place, we look forward to seeing you there.

The Essex Youth Voice Day – Safety in Essex

Saturday 11th October - 9.45am - 3.30pm at Anglia Ruskin University

The day is open to young people age 11+ who live in Essex, Southend and Thurrock. Whether they like to speak up, get creative or be part of something exciting that helps create positive changes for young people and communities in Essex, the youth voice day is for them.

The Kinship Post Order Support Team booked a place to join this exciting opportunity for Kinship young people to get involved in fun and interactive workshops, unleash their creativity and share their reflections, solutions and questions with Essex Leaders.

All young people will receive a free Goodie Bag and Lunch.

If your young person would like to join our group on the 11th October, please contact us on Duty Line 033301 39860 or kinship.support@essex.gov.uk.

Youth Group

We have had a successful start to our brand-new Youth Group for kinship young people age, 13 – 18.

The aim of the group is to provide a safe and fun environment, make new friends, learn skills and to explore interests.

The next group is on **Saturday 25th October in Braintree**. For further information, please contact either Oscar on Oscar.Boaler-Hysett@essex.gov.uk or Colleen on colleen.double@essex.gov.uk
All the details are on the attached flyer.

Upcoming Coffee Mornings

You are guaranteed a warm welcome and a cup of tea or coffee, interesting conversations and a chance to meet new friends.



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	Mother's Kitchen Café 6 Felmores End, Pitsea, Basildon SS13 1PN	Thursday 23 rd October, 20 th November & 18 th December 2025 9.30am to 11.30am
Clacton	Weeley Village Hall, Clacton Rd, Weeley, Weeley Heath, Clacton-on-Sea, CO16 9DH	Friday 3 rd October, 7 th November & 5 th December 2025 10am to noon
Canvey Island	Leigh Beck Infant School, Point Road, Canvey Island, SS8 7TD	Thursday 16 th October 13 th November & 11 th December 2025 9.30am to 11.30am
Cressing	St. Barnabas Church Hall, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing, CM77 8HG	Friday 17 th October 21 st November & 19 th December 2025 10am to noon
Harlow	Woodlands Family Centre, 9 Peterswood, Harlow, CM18 7RJ	Wednesday 1 st October, 5 th November & 3 rd December 2025 10am to noon
Virtual	Via Teams – link sent out the day before	Tuesday 7 th October, 4 th November & 2 nd December 2025 10am to noon

Christmas Parties

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



- **South Essex**

Date: Saturday 29th November

Time: 10am to 12 Midday

Venue: Frypa, The Fryth, SS14 2RP

- **Mid Essex**

Date: Saturday 29th November

Time: 2pm to 4pm

Venue: St Barnabus Church Hall, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing, Essex,
CM77 8HG

- **West Essex**

Date: Saturday 6th December

Time: 10am till 12 midday

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

- **North Essex**

Date: Saturday 6th 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 kinship.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

Wider Local Offer of Support

Get help with savings if you're on a low income

- Government saving scheme for people claiming universal credit - Help to Save

Help to Save is backed by the government so all savings in the scheme are secure.

<https://www.gov.uk/get-help-savings-low-income>



Essex Libraries

Essex Libraries have a wide range of free useful resources both online and in person across all their venues. Please take a look on:

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/events>

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/digital-content/our-online-library>

Virtual School

The Essex Virtual School is dedicated to supporting children in care (CIC), previously looked-after children (PLAC), and those under Special Guardianship Orders, helping them to thrive as learners. They aim to enhance educational outcomes by providing guidance and support that raises aspirations and expectations for these children and young people. They work with designated teachers, social workers, carers and other partners at times of difficulty and need.

Their aim is to:

- improve understanding of the unique barriers to learning and education experienced by many of our children and young people
 - promote and foster a culture that takes account of children and young people's views according to age and understanding, identifying, and meeting their educational needs
 - work in partnership with all of those who support our children and young people to raise aspirations and expectations and build capacity to make a positive difference to their educational experiences and outcomes
 - provide support and challenge where needed to ensure that the educational needs of our children are prioritised
- For support and advice contact them on virtual.school@essex.gov.uk

<https://schools.essex.gov.uk/pupil-support-and-wellbeing/essex-virtual-school>

For further guidance please contact virtualschool@essex.gov.uk



Kinship Compass

Compass is an independent online information, advice, and support hub just for kinship carers nationally run by Kinship. They hold a number of free workshops. You can sign up for these using this link

[workshops and roadshows](#) or by searching <https://kinship.org.uk/support-and-advice/training-and-events/>

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.

Essex Kinship Post Order Support Team - Contact Details:



**The team has a dedicated duty number:
033301 39860 - open Monday to Thursday from 9.00am to 5.30pm and
Friday 9am to 4.30pm.**

Our aim is to answer your queries, offer support and advice or signpost you to a partner agency where necessary for additional support and advice.

You can also e-mail us at any time on kinship.support@gov.uk – this mailbox is monitored daily Monday to Friday.

You can also access our website:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/special-guardianship>

Please be mindful that urgent requests or concerns regarding the welfare of a child should always be called through to:

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 kinship.support@essex.gov.uk and we will remove you from our mailing list.

