

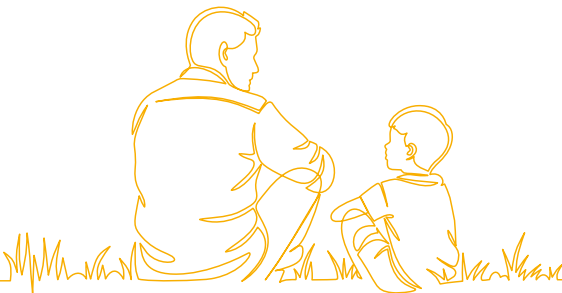


Support for birth parents

If your child is in foster care, you're still an important part of their life. You may feel overwhelmed, but there is support available to help you stay involved and understand what's happening.

Social workers will talk to you about plans for your child and help arrange contact – this could be through visits, phone calls, or letters. You might also be offered parenting support, emotional wellbeing services, or help preparing for contact sessions. If the plan is for your child to return home, you'll be supported to work towards that.

Foster carers are encouraged to speak positively about birth families and help children manage their feelings. You're not alone – ask your social worker about what support is available for you.



Useful contacts and links:

Telford & Wrekin Council, Kinship Team

Email: kinshipenquiries@telford.gov.uk

Tel: 01952 380353

<https://kinship.telford.gov.uk>

Kinship

Tel: 0300 123 7015

www.kinship.org.uk

Family Connect

Tel: 01952 385385

Email: familyconnect@telford.gov.uk

Family Rights Group

Tel: 0808 801 0366 (free advice line)

www.frg.org.uk

PAC-UK

Tel: 020 7284 5879

Email: advice@pac-uk.org

www.pac-uk.org/about



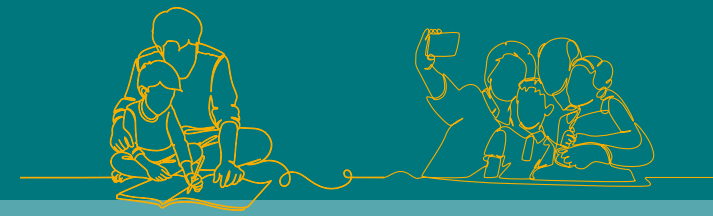
kinship telford

Kinship Foster Care

Information for birth parents



Kinship Foster Care Information for birth parents



What is a kinship fostering?

Kinship foster care is when your child is placed with someone they already know and trust, like a relative or close family friend because they cannot live with you at the moment.

This is a formal arrangement made by the local authority to ensure your child is safe and well cared for.

The person looking after your child will go through an assessment process to become an approved foster carer. This means they'll receive support and guidance to help meet your child's needs, and the placement will be regularly reviewed to make sure it continues to be the right option for your child.



Assessment

When a family member or close friend is being considered to care for your child, we want to make sure the arrangement is safe, stable, and truly in your child's best interests. That's why we carry out an assessment process – so we can support the right plan for your child's future.

The process starts with a viability assessment, which is a first look at whether the person might be suitable to care for your child. If that goes well, we move on to a full fostering assessment (called a Form K), which is carried out by a social worker. This includes home visits, background checks, and conversations to understand how they can meet your child's needs.

We look at things like:

- their parenting experience and ability to provide emotional support;
- the safety and stability of their home;
- their financial situation; and
- how they can support your child's wellbeing.

As part of this process, we also explore all the legal options available – such as a Child Arrangements Order (CAO), Special Guardianship Order (SGO), or fostering – to make sure the long-term plan is the right one for your child.

If the assessment is successful, a Form K support plan is created. This outlines the practical, financial, and emotional support the carer will receive to help them care for your child in the best way possible.

Your role in supporting your child

You continue to play a meaningful role and your involvement can have a significant influence in your child's emotional wellbeing, identity development and stability. Being respectful of the arrangement can be reassuring for your child.