



# Kinship Foster Care

## Assessment process



**1 Telephone enquiry** – The process begins with a telephone enquiry. During this call, information will be gathered about the child and the family circumstances. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss your current situation.



**2 Home visit** – A social worker will arrange a visit to your home. This is to get to know you better and to make sure your home is safe and appropriate for the child.



**3 Identity checks** – You will be asked to provide identification documents such as a passport or driving license to confirm your identity. The Local Authority will also carry out enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks to make sure there isn't anything in your background that could pose a risk to the child's safety.



**4 Assessment** – A full Kinship Assessment will be conducted which includes:

- exploring your relationship with the child;
- understanding your parenting capacity;
- reviewing your support network; and
- considering the child's needs and how you can meet them long-term.

The assessment may involve multiple interviews and written reports.



**5 Pre-approval training** – You'll be invited to attend training designed specifically for kinship carers. Topics may include safeguarding and understanding trauma and attachment.



**6 Fostering Panel** – Once your assessment is complete, it will be shared with the Fostering Panel. The panel includes professionals and independent members who will review everything and make a recommendation.



**7 Worker allocation** – Once approved, you will be assigned a Supervising Social Worker. They will provide ongoing support, guidance, and monitoring.



**8 Reviews** – Each year the Local Authority will review how things are going. This helps ensure it is working well for both you and the child and gives you a chance to reflect and raise any concerns or needs.



**9 Support** – Kinship carers receive continuous support which may include:

- access to training programmes;
- practical support;
- peer support groups; and
- access to therapeutic services

You will also receive a structured support plan created by the Local Authority to outline the help available