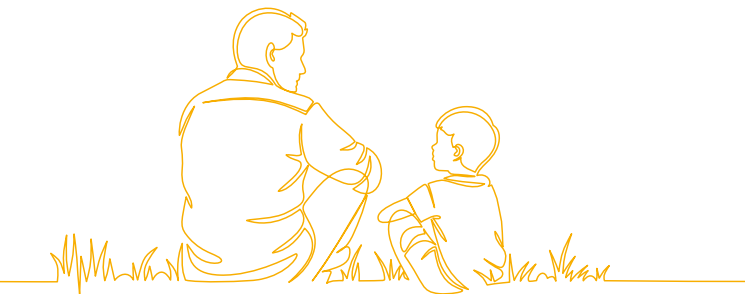




Support for kinship foster carers

As a kinship foster carer, you may be entitled to:

- fostering allowance to help cover the costs of caring for the child;
- access to training programmes;
- emotional and practical support from social workers;
- support groups;
- help with contact arrangements between the child and their birth family;
- quarterly newsletters; and
- signposting to other organisations.



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

CoramBAAF

(British Association for Adoption and Fostering)

Tel: 020 7520 0300

www.corambaaf.org.uk

Fostering Network

www.fosteringnetwork.org.uk

Coram Children's Legal Centre

www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Family Hubs

Email: telfordfamilyhubs@telford.gov.uk



kinship telford

Kinship Foster Care



What is kinship foster care?

Kinship foster care is when a child who is looked after by the local authority is placed with a relative or someone they already know, such as a family friend.

This arrangement is formal and requires the carer to be assessed and approved as a foster carer under fostering regulations.

Assessment

If you're a family member or close friend being considered to care for a child, thank you for stepping forward – your involvement can make a real difference in their life. To make sure the arrangement is safe, stable, and in the child's best interests, we carry out a kinship foster care assessment, known as a Form K.

The process begins with a viability assessment, which is a short initial check to see if you might be suitable to care for the child. If this is positive, a full fostering assessment is carried out by a social worker. This includes visits to your home, background checks, and conversations to explore how you can meet the child's needs.

During the assessment, we look at your parenting experience, your ability to offer emotional support,

the safety and stability of your home, and your financial situation. We also consider all the legal options available – such as a Child Arrangements Order (CAO), Special Guardianship Order (SGO), or fostering – so we can work together to find the best long-term plan for the child.

If the assessment is successful, we'll create a Form K support plan. This outlines the practical, financial, and emotional support you'll receive to help you care for the child confidently and effectively.

We understand this process can feel daunting, but we're here to support you every step of the way. If you have any questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to ask.

The role of the local authority

If a child needs to be placed urgently with a family member or close friend, the Local Authority can use Regulation 24 to approve you temporarily as a kinship foster carer. This allows the child to live with someone they know and trust while a full fostering assessment is completed. The temporary approval lasts up to 16 weeks and can be extended by another 8 weeks if needed. During this time, social workers carry out checks to make sure the carer can keep the child safe and meet their needs. If the full assessment is successful, you may be formally approved as a foster carer. You will also receive a Form K support plan, which outlines the help and support available to you.

