National Kinship Care Service

Supporting Kinship Carers: A Partnership Approach

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What is Kinship Care?

• Relative or close family friend
• Complex and challenging needs
• Formal and informal
• Estimated 4,000 formal and 16,000 informal kinship carers in Scotland
• Access to services and supports
• Children and Young People Bill, Scottish Government Financial Review of Kinship Care
Information, Advice and Support Service

- The Kinship Care Helpline – ParentLine Scotland
- Policy activity
- Outreach and engagement
- Workshops
Partnership Working

- Scottish Government
- Mentor UK
- Citizens Advice Scotland
- Education Scotland
- NHS Scotland
- ADSW
- Kinship Carers
What Our Work Tells Us

Kinship carers tell us they need:

- Respite from caring
- Emotional support
- Advice, information and support around caring for children
- Access to free school meals/clothing grants to ease financial pressure
- Access to leisure facilities
- Advocacy to navigate through legal, health, housing or education systems

- Advice and support around dealing with contact arrangements for the children
- For the older grandparents in particular, knowing what will happen to the child/children should they become ill or pass away
What Our Work Tells Us

For the children, kinship carers tell us they need:

- Counselling/therapeutic services and supports
- Extra support at school
- Help with managing relationships with their parents
- Peer support from other children living in kinship care
- Access to mental health services
- Help to understand and manage their relationship with their parents
- Help to understand the impacts and effects of drug and alcohol misuse.
What Our Work Tells Us

During 2012/13, 532 contacts were made from kinship carers to the Kinship Care Helpline—this is made up of 498 calls and 34 emails.

The top 10 issues raised by kinship carers are listed here. This gives an indication of the complex range of needs amongst this group of people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Welfare Rights</td>
<td>144</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Relationships with others</td>
<td>67</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Information about CHILDREN 1ST/PLS</td>
<td>68</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Contact/Residence</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Family Relationships</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Substance Misuse</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Behaviour/Discipline</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Poverty/Unemployment/Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Bereavement and Loss</td>
<td>25</td>
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What Next?

- Building capacity of families and groups in their communities
- Children and Young People Bill
- Financial Review of Kinship Care
- ‘Managing Your Money’
ParentLine Scotland

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