

Contact: Glenda Henderson
Direct Tel: 03000 265726
email:
Our ref: CYPS/GH



17 September, 2021

Dear Kinship Carer

Access to Support/Services from Kinship (formerly Grandparents Plus)

Durham County Council are committed to supporting kinship carers. Therefore, we have commissioned Kinship (previously Grandparents Plus) to deliver support to all kinship carers across County Durham until the end of March 2022.

Kinship is one of the leading kinship care charities in England and Wales providing expert advice, information and guidance helping with complicated and stressful decisions that so many kinship families have to make. Kinship seeks to provide kinship carers with support and help through the difficult times and to also share and celebrate the good.

The support provided by Kinship includes:

Free Kinship Membership

- Expert advice and support - benefits, financial issues, housing, education, legal issues, family relationships and contact
- Access to grants
- Regional and local peer support groups
- Telephone peer support with another kinship carer
- Sign up to the Kinship Community and receive a monthly e – bulletin

Kinship Connected

Kinship Project Worker, Jane Harmer, is developing a network of **peer support groups** for kinship carers residing in County Durham. Jane has liaised with kinship carers, Durham County Council and other stakeholders to identify suitable locations and venues across County Durham which are listed below:

- **Durham City Group - 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 10.00-11.30.
Gala Theatre Café, Millenium Place, Durham DH1 1WA.**

Children and Young People's Services

Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UJ
Main Telephone 03000 260 000

Commences 12th October 2021

- **Peterlee Group - 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month 12.30-2.00pm.
Café Eden, 7-8 Yoden Way, Peterlee SR8 1AX.
Commences 7th October 2021**
- **Newton Aycliffe Group - 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month 10.00-11.30.
Costa Coffee, Greenwell Road, Newton Aycliffe DL5 5RT (on bus route)
Commences 7th October 2021**
- **Stanley Group - 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. 12.30-2.00pm.
Rustica Café, Joicey Square, Stanley DH9 0PG.
Commences 12th October 2021**

Consett Support Group is an existing well-established group which meets regularly with the opportunity for kinship carers to join.

Support groups provide the opportunity for kinship carers to come together, share stories, support each other, exchange advice and coping mechanisms. They are a great way to meet other kinship carers and help to reduce loneliness and isolation.

Recent, local feedback revealed that over 90% of kinship carers agreed that support groups made them feel part of the kinship carer community. Support groups have helped kinship carers keep in touch with other kinship carers, helping them feeling less isolated and has also provided the opportunity to listen to and share concerns about their current situation, as well as gaining practical knowledge about kinship care. Kinship carers have also expressed a real enjoyment from attending support groups and this is demonstrated from recent kinship carer feedback, which includes the statement below.

“Our kinship group is more like a family than a group, I always feel welcome and can message anyone for advice any time”

For kinship carers who require additional support, this may be provided by a one to one Kinship Project Worker for up to 6mths.

If you think you would benefit from this additional support, please contact the Kinship Care & Support Manager, Glenda Henderson (details at the top of this letter) who can discuss and make the appropriate referral or alternatively contact the Kinship Project Worker for Durham, Jane Harmer for further details m: 07943 865601 e: jane.harmer@kinship.org.uk

You may also make a self-referral for any of the above Kinship services by telephone, email or completing a webform.

T: 0300 033 9851, Monday – Thursday 10am – 2pm

Email: kinshipresponse@kinship.org.uk

Webform: www.kinship.org.uk/free-support/

Yours sincerely

Glenda Henderson

Glenda Henderson
Kinship Care & Support Manager
Children and Young People's Services