

Useful websites

Children's centres:

www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/childcare-and-pre-school/childrens-centres

Youth hubs:

<https://local.kent.gov.uk/kb5/kent/directory/youth.page?youthchannel=0> <https://>

www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/young-people

Virtual School Kent:

www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/plac/

Kent Cares Town:

<https://kentcares town.lea.kent.sch.uk/>

Family Rights Group:

<https://www.frg.org.uk/>

National Special Guardian Support Services:

www.family-action.org.uk

National Association of Therapeutic Parents:

www.naotp.com

SGO Statutory Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/special-guardianship-guidance>

Contact us

Please contact Kent County

Council: 03000 411 111

(Monday to Friday 09:00-17:00)

Social.services@kent.gov.uk

*Making Kent a
county that works
for all children and
young people*

Social.services@kent.gov.uk



Special Guardianship Orders

A guide to help available to you

Social.services@kent.gov.uk



What is a Special Guardianship Order (SGO)?

SGO's came into force on 30 September 2005 as part of the Adoption and Children's Act 2002. SGO's allow children and young people to stay within their family network or with another significant person. SGO's cease when a young person turns 18 years old.

What support is available in Kent?

Providing a safe and loving home under an SGO can be challenging. It is recognised that this can be difficult and stressful at times. Kent County Council provides several support services that can be accessed by special guardians and those they care for. These include:

Children's centres

Which provide a range of services for under 8s and families. Each centre offers different services such as:

- childcare information
- early education
- training or finding a new job
- baby clinics
- parenting advice
- support for children with special needs and disabilities

For more information about the centres in your area contact: 03000 411 111 (Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm) or visit: www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/childcare-and-pre-school/childrens-centres

Young people

There are several places for young people to come meet friends and hang out safely, with lots of things going on. Young people can also drop in and meet with local advisers and get specialist support, get information and advice.

For more information, please visit the Local Kent Directory pages: <https://local.kent.gov.uk/kb5/kent/directory/youthpage?youthchannel=0>

For more information on making the most of being young in Kent, please visit <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/young-people>

Education

Virtual School Kent can offer advice to families with previously looked after children and can attend school meetings if necessary, to ensure that your child is getting the right support they need. Their website is packed with information and advice on education for parents, guardians and schools: www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/plac/

Kent Cares Town

Kent Cares Town is a website for all children and young people who are or have been in the care of Kent County Council. It is packed with useful information and resources, from education to life beyond school and activities for children and young people to take part in. It was created by young people for young people. <https://kentcares town.lea.kent.sch.uk/>

Other services

If you would like Social Services support for your child or Young Person, including access to the Early Help Team, please contact: 03000 411111 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) or request email social.services@kent.gov.uk

If your child or young person needs more individualised support, then KCC will offer an assessment to determine the right support is put in place. This will be completed in partnership with the you and your child/young person, depending on their age. Should the assessment identify that support/services are needed a proposed plan outlining the provision will then be agreed.

Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund (ASF)

When the assessment* is completed, Kent County Council may identify that therapeutic services funded by the ASF would be beneficial to support your family. If this is the case, Kent County Council will apply to the Fund directly. If successful, the ASF will release funding to Kent County Council which uses the fund to commission and pay agreed providers of therapeutic services. This will ensure the right support for you and your family.

For more information please visit the Family Rights Group website <https://www.frg.org.uk/need-help-or-advice/family-and-friends-carers/the-adoption-support-fund-and-special-guardians>

*Please note: The Local Authority that places a child with a family is responsible for assessing that family's support needs for 3 years after the order is made. After 3 years, the responsibility lies with the Local Authority where the family lives, if they have moved.