



Support for Families with Special Guardianship Orders (SGO)

Here in KCC we have set up a new team to offer support to families where an SGO is in place.

- ❖ Was the SGO granted in Kent?
- ❖ Was the SGO granted in another LA but over 3 years ago and you live in Kent?
- ❖ Do you think you would benefit from support?

We are able to offer you the following support:

- ❖ Social Work Assistant Assessment of Need as a Family?
- ❖ Support in negotiating Education Needs?
- ❖ Training in relation to Trauma / Attachment
- ❖ Training in relation to caring for Teenagers
- ❖ Access to Therapy Service if the child was previously in care
- ❖ Peer Group Support / Coffee Mornings

Contact Us

If you think you or a family you work with would benefit from this support please contact Kent County Council by:

Phone : 0300 041 111

Email: social.services@kent.gov.uk

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.

Please see more information about Special Guardianship Orders and what programmes, resources and information available to families living in Kent:

<https://www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/perch/resources/plac-sgo-leaflet-kcc-general.pdf>



Further Support

❖ Virtual School Kent

VSK strategically champion the educational needs of children living in kinship care, previously looked after children and those children supported by a social worker.

The Advisory Team at VSK can offer advice via email or telephone consultation with families and schools (with consent) to support the educational provision for children with a SGO.

The Virtual School website is full of additional information and guidance to support families, education settings and professionals.

[Home | Virtual School Kent \(lea.kent.sch.uk\)](http://lea.kent.sch.uk)

For advice, please self refer to [Initial Contact Form](#)

❖ Kinship Compass

Kinship Compass is for all kinship carers. Their website is packed with resources and free training for kinship carers, ranging from webinars on education topics such as understanding the EHCP process and SEND processes to online advice on allowances, mental health, legal help and bereavement support.



[Kinship Compass | Independent information hub for kinship carers](#)

❖ PAC-UK Special Guardianship Support Service

PAC-UK Special Guardianship Support Service provides comprehensive and up-to-date information, guidance and support for special guardians. Membership is free to all special guardians and Kent professionals who may be supporting them. As well as the comprehensive website, they also offer a specialist Advice Line and Education Advice Line staffed by qualified and experienced PAC-UK counsellors who can provide advice and information on all aspects of special guardianship.

If your child was 'Looked After' by a local authority in England or Wales:

Children who have left the care of a local authority under an SGO are eligible for:

❖ Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund (ASF)

When an 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.



❖ **Other eligibilities:**

- Pupil Premium for Previously Looked After Children
- Support from the school's Designated Teacher
- Childcare funding
- Priority on oversubscription criteria for school admissions.

For more information, please visit [Home | Virtual School Kent \(lea.kent.sch.uk\)](#)

Further Resources

Government Documentation

Special Guardianship Review

[Special guardianship review - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

You can find out more about Family Action by visiting

www.family-action.org.uk

