

What is kinship care?

Kinship care is a care arrangement provided by a child's extended family or by a close friend who has a pre-existing relationship with the child. Kinship care can be a formal or informal arrangement and it can be time limited or long term.

Types of kinship care

1. **Formal kinship care** is when children are 'looked after' and we place them with relatives or people known to them. A children's hearing or court order may place children in formal kinship care.
2. **Informal kinship care** is when children who are looked after by relatives are not placed there formally. A social worker may have been involved but this does not mean the child is looked after. Many informal care arrangements with relatives are unknown to the local authority.

Are you a kinship carer?

Under the [Looked After \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009](#), a Kinship carer is defined as 'a person who is related to the child (through blood, marriage or civil partnership) or a person with whom the child has a pre-existing relationship'.

North Ayrshire Social Care and Health Partnership adheres to the principles set out in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 in supporting kinship carers. [Part 13 of the Children & Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#) sets out the guidance and eligibility for kinship assistance and support.

Part 13 specifies the types of court order that will be recognised as a Kinship Care Order (KCO) for the purpose of receiving kinship care assistance. It also places a duty on local authorities to ensure that assistance is made available to those who apply for, consider applying for or have obtained a Kinship Care Order regarding an eligible child.

In addition, the Scottish Government has extended funding for kinship care to cover some other informal care arrangements where the following criteria is met:

Where the child is not looked after but the child is subject to a section 11 order and is or was:

- Previously looked after
- Placed with involvement from the local authority
- At risk of becoming looked after

Kinship allowances

North Ayrshire Social Care and Health Partnership has implemented a new kinship allowance and parity model so that kinship carers receive the same allowance as foster carers in North Ayrshire.

Kinship allowance is £200 minus any child-related benefits that the carer is eligible for.

More information

The kinship team is responsible for dealing with any enquiries in relation to eligibility for kinship assistance or support to obtain a Kinship Care Order.

If you need any further information or have a query in relation to kinship care, please contact the Kinship Care Team on 01294311505.

Help and support

- [Mentor UK](#) publishes [Kinship Care Guide](#), call 0131 334 8512 for more advice
- Reattach <http://reattachparenting.co.uk/>
- Nurture Scotland <http://www.nurture-scotland.org/>

Kinship care inquiries in North Ayrshire

North Ayrshire Social Care and Health Partnership, Family Placement, Kinship Care Team,
West Road, Irvine KA128RE Tel: 01294 311505

05 April 2018