

Kinship Local Offer: Improving Lives Select Commission June 2025

**Chris MacDonald,
Kinship Lead CYPS**

National context

DfE definition of kinship care:

‘any situation in which a child is being raised in the care of a friend or family member who is not their parent. The arrangement may be temporary or longer term’.

DfE’s Oct 2024 ‘Kinship Care: Statutory Guidance’ requires that we:

- Nominate senior officer as lead for kinship.
- Publish and regularly review our Kinship Local Offer.
- Offer family group decision making to all families before care proceedings.
- Virtual School to nominate officer for educational outcomes for children in kinship care arrangements.

Local context – Our progress

- Updated RMBC Kinship Care Policy published in 2024.
- Nominated officer for kinship identified.
- Role of Virtual School Head providing advice and guidance regarding children in kinship care and children with a social worker is already established.
- Uplift to kinship allowances following change to means testing model effective from Jan 2025.



Decisions and scrutiny

An update on the Kinship Local Offer was presented to ILSC in March 2025.

The draft Kinship Local Offer is presented to ILSC for scrutiny ahead of a Cabinet decision on 07.07.25.



Kinship Local Offer

The Kinship Local Offer is expected to address:

- Support groups and training.
- Financial support.
- Help to stay in work.
- Accommodation.
- Education.
- Supporting family time.
- Family group decision making.
- Legal support.
- Therapeutic support.



Kinship Local Offer

The Council's Kinship Local Offer:

- Support groups run fortnightly.
- Training including dedicated for kinship families.
- Family Help Navigators specialised in kinship.
- Educational advice and support including Virtual School.
- Connections to Family Hubs.
- Support with complexity and instability via Empower, our placement stability service, including accessing the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund.
- Financial allowances for eligible families.
- Help with legal advice for eligible families

Thank you

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Kinship Lead