

Special Guardian's Newsletter

November 2023

Hello Everyone

Half-term has gone in a flash and the days are definitely getting shorter with darker evenings and mornings. We hope you all managed to have fun over the half-term break? Before you know it we will have Christmas upon us and we will send out information about activities for the holiday period when we receive them.

In this newsletter we have information about:

- Kinship Carers Peer Support Group – An independent group which meets virtually and also face to face.
- Coffee Mornings – Please help us to make these more popular!
- Early Help Drop In Centres in Shrewsbury
- Sleep Tight Workshops starting January 2024
- Understanding your child/teenager courses – available face to face and online starting in January 2024
- How to have online courses translated into your first language
- SEND – Hear from and chat to drop ins – with county wide venues
- Social Media access to Family Information Centre and the SEND local offer
- Fire and Rescue – how to book a free safe and well visit or complete an online safety check for your home.

Don't forget you can always view our web page on the Shropshire Council web site for more information about Special Guardianship post order support and also to access links to independent charities which support Kinship Carers. [Support services for special guardians | Shropshire Council](#)



Are you a kinship carer?

A kinship carer is someone who is raising a relative's or friend's child.

We are starting a group for kinship carers to come together.

Come and join us

Shropshire Kinship Carers

Monthly
Second Friday
We alternate between mornings (10:30 AM - 11:30 AM) and evenings (7:30-8:30PM)

Please contact Denise on the details below to find out when we are meeting next and for the Zoom link.

18+

All kinship carers and special guardians are welcome.



A chance to meet, listen, share and support one another.



Interested to find out more?

Scan with your phone camera for more info



compass.kinship.org.uk
kinship.org.uk

Please contact Denise for more information
denise.beckett@kinship.org.uk or
07355 036064

Kinship is the working name for Grandparents Plus, which is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under number 4454103 and registered as a charity under number 1093975

There is also a Shropshire Kinship Carers face to face group which will be meeting every month at:

The Lantern, Meadow Farm Drive, Shrewsbury, SY1 4NG. The group meets 10:30am - 12:00. The dates for 2024 are as follows:

8th January & 2nd February

1st March & 5th April

3rd May & 7th June



Special Guardians Coffee Mornings

Please help!

As you know we have held a few coffee mornings over the last year in Shrewsbury and also Oswestry. We would love to continue with these but the uptake of Special Guardians attending makes us wonder if this is something that is wanted by you?

In the recent survey that we have sent out to you all, we have specifically asked for your feedback on how we could improve this provision to make it more popular. If you either haven't responded via the survey or would be willing to offer your opinions on this specific matter please contact us by email at SGO.Duty@shropshire.gov.uk .We would be most grateful for your ideas.

Thank You

Early Help Family Drop-in

Free information, advice and support

Come along to:

Sunflower House, Kendal Road, Shrewsbury,

SY1 4ES

Every Tuesday

9:30am—12:30pm

You can meet:

Early Help Family Worker

Parenting Support

Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service

Strengthening Families Employment
Advisor

and others



Supporting families with children aged 0-19 years (up to 25 years for young people with special educational needs and disabilities)

We aim to make it easier for you to ask for help and get support when you need it.

 Shropshire
Council

www.shropshire.gov.uk

 Shropshire
Strengthening
Families

Early Help Family Drop-in

Free information, advice and support

Come along to:

Harlescott Grange Community Hub, Kynaston

Road, Shrewsbury, SY1 3JR

Every Thursday

10:00am—12:00pm

Whether you have a baby, toddler or a teenager, being a parent/carer is a huge responsibility.

You can meet:

Early Help Family Worker



Supporting families with children aged 0-19 years (up to 25 years for young people with special educational needs and disabilities)

We aim to make it easier for you to ask for help and get support when you need it.

 Shropshire
Council

www.shropshire.gov.uk

 Shropshire
Strengthening
Families

Sleep Tight workshops from January 2024

These 5 week workshops cover:

- Recognising the role of sleep hygiene to improve sleep
- Identifying causes of sleep issues and appropriate practical strategies to try
- Completing sleep diaries and identifying potential sleep issues



These courses are offered face to face and online

- Friday 12th January 2024 from 09.30am to 11.30am in Shrewsbury, venue to be confirmed.
- Friday 12th January 2024 from 12.30pm to 2.30pm Virtually via MS Teams
- Friday 23rd February 2024 from 9.30am to 11.30am in Shrewsbury, venue to be confirmed.
- Friday 23rd February 2024 from 12.30pm to 2.30pm Virtually via MS Teams

Please share with those parents you think would benefit.

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly if you have any questions: parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk or give us a call on 01743 250950

Understanding your child/teen and those with SEND

The Parenting Team will be delivering free Understanding Your Child and Understanding Your Child SEND groups from January 2024



These 10 week groups aim to:

- Promote understanding of children's behaviour within the context of developmental issues
- Promote the development of parent/child relationship
- Increase confidence and self-esteem in both parents and children
- Give parents a strategy for repair when things go wrong
- Promote reflective, sensitive and effective parenting

The courses are offered face to face and online.

- Understanding Your Child SEND starts on Monday 15th January 2024 until 18th March 2024 from 12.30pm to 2.30pm in Shrewsbury, venue to be confirmed.
- Understanding Your Child starts Wednesday 10th January 2024 until 20th March 2024 from 9.30am to 11.30am Virtually via MS Teams
- Understanding Your Child SEND starts on Thursday 11th January 2024 until 21st March 2024 From 12.30pm to 2.30pm Virtually via MS Teams

Please share with those parents you think would benefit.

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly if you have any questions:
parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk or give us a call on 01743 250950

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD
SOLIHULL APPROACH

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Want to read our online courses in your first language?

Some of our online courses are professionally translated and you can choose one if your language is there. If your language isn't there, our latest addition uses the available technology to give you an automatic translation.
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www.inourplace.co.uk
Click on the Google Translate box and select your language

Please use an internet browser (the thing you use to access the internet) that supports the Google Translate 'widget', such as Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Ecosia or Firefox (unfortunately this does not include Internet Explorer).

(This is not a professional translation, so we take no responsibility for the quality of the translation!)

For technical support, contact:
solihull.approach@uhb.nhs.uk
or 0121 296 4448 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

SEND - Hear From and Chat To drop ins

Shropshire's early help service are hosting an opportunity for parent carers to meet teams from education, health and social care.

The theme for Autumn is

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) support
- Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs)
- Annual reviews



Come along and hear from those who can help, support and guide parent carers on these topics, and then chat to them about any queries you have on the process.

The session will also be attended by the Parent and Carer Council (PACC) and the Early Help team.

Sessions are being held in Shrewsbury, Ludlow, Oswestry and Market Drayton and are free to attend.




- Mon 13 Nov, 9.30am-12.30pm, The Centre, Oswestry, SY11 1LW
- Mon 20 Nov, 9.30am-12.30pm, Sunflower House, Shrewsbury, SY1 4E
- Fri 1 Dec, 9.30am-12.30pm, Raven House, Market Drayton, TF9 3AH
- Thu 14 Dec, 9.30am-12.30pm, Helena Lane Community Centre, Ludlow, SY8 2NP

To find out more about these specific SEND events or the weekly Early Help drop ins offering support to families, please visit the [Family Information Directory](#).

Hear from 
Chat with 

A chance for families of children with disabilities or special additional needs to meet services from education, health and social care. Plus Shropshire Parent and Carer Council.

The theme for Autumn is Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) support, Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) and annual reviews.

Social media – are you following?

Stay up to date with news and information for children, young people and families by following the Family Information Service and the SEND Local Offer on social media. There's lots of information shared on a daily basis to support families in Shropshire, so why not give them a follow? If you have news and information you would like them to share about your service either tag them into your post or email ShropshireFIS@shropshire.gov.uk



- FIS Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ShropshireFamilyInfo/>
- FIS Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/shropshirefamilyinfo/>
- FIS Twitter <https://twitter.com/ShropFamilyInfo>
- LO Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/sendlocaloffershropshire>
- LO Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/shropshiresendlocaloffer/>
- LO Twitter <https://twitter.com/LocalOfferShrop>

How safe are you and your family from a fire in your home?



**Shropshire
Fire and Rescue Service**

Did you know that the fire service offers free safe and well visits in your home?

The purpose of the visit is to ensure that you are aware of potential hazards within your home and can take appropriate actions to reduce your risk from fire. We will also check you have working smoke alarms and discuss your escape plan.

To book your **free safe and well visit**, please call **01743 260 260** or email safeandwell@shropshirefire.gov.uk.

Online Home fire safety check

Alternatively, you can complete a FREE online Home Fire Safety Check, that could help you identify if a safe and well visit would be beneficial for you by following the link <https://www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc/>

This easy-to-follow home fire safety check will take you through your home one room at a time and the simple questions will help you spot fire risks as you go around your home.

The tool will offer tips and advice on the steps you can take to reduce those risks. At the end, you will receive a personalised fire safety action plan to help keep you and your household safe from fire.

This online home fire safety check should take around **15 minutes** to complete.

For more information about our services, please visit our website: <https://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/safe-and-well-visit>