

NATIONAL KINSHIP CARE SERVICE

FINAL EDITION

Dear Kinship Families,

We have to start this newsletter by sharing some disappointing news for the team here at Children 1st. Our existing funding to provide the National Kinship Care Service ended on 30 September and we were unsuccessful in our bid to continue to provide this service.

The National Kinship Care Service will now be led by Citizens Advice Scotland along with Mentor UK and Child Poverty Action Group [CPAG]. Details are provided on the next page.

This has been difficult news for us and we appreciate the impact that it can have on those who use our service and who have invested their trust in building a relationship with us. Any such investment is never wasted and it has been a joy and a privilege to be part of your lives.

To those who have shared their stories published in the newsletter, we thank you. The feedback and response has always been incredible and spoke to the hearts of so many who have their experiences reflected by it.

To those who have helped by providing peer support in getting new groups started, we also thank you. Your lives are busy enough and yet you gave your time so freely, which has been an encouragement and inspiration to those setting up new groups.

Finally, to those who have attended workshops and information sessions to help understand and connect with the children in your care, we also extend our thanks. You bring with you a wealth of knowledge and experience to share and learn with and from others, and it has always been impressive to see how much you're willing to take on and how open you are to developing different approaches.

Our dedicated, skilled and committed team have valued the opportunity to support you through both the difficult and the rewarding times as kinship care families.

While the National Kinship Care Service will continue without us, Children 1st, continue to provide ParentLine Scotland— the free national helpline service open between 9am – 9pm every week day. If you are currently receiving support of any kind from ParentLine Scotland, please continue to use our service in the same way you always have.

ParentLine Scotland is our national helpline, email and web chat service for anyone caring for or concerned about a child. Our trained team are highly skilled, attuned to the diverse needs of callers and always ready to support the needs of your individual family.

We would encourage you to continue calling with any concerns or issues affecting you.

Very best wishes to you and your families for the future.

Children 1st Kinship Care Team

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- **THANK YOU**

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News from the Scottish Government

The Scottish Government are pleased to advise that the **National Kinship Care Service will now be led by Citizen Advice Scotland**. The service will be delivered across Scotland, with advice and information available from every Citizens Advice Bureau, supported by four Regional Officers delivering specialist advice, to address more complex circumstances. Advice and information will also be available from the **Kinship Care Helpline 0808 800 0006, which is available from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday**, and through the Citizens Advice Scotland website www.cas.org.uk and the dedicated Kinship Care Service website www.kinshipcarescotland.org.uk.

The service will continue to provide advice and information to kinship carers around the legal and financial aspects of kinship care, and an information and training service to local authorities and other stakeholder agencies. In addition, the service will offer:

- a listening ear, advice, information and signposting for kinship carers, around the emotional and practical elements of their role
- workshops, information leaflets and newsletters for kinship carers and for the young people in their care, which will respond to the issues which they have highlighted as important to them

Citizens Advice Scotland is delighted to welcome Mentor UK as partners in the delivery of the service, and to support the Mentor UK Kinship Care Guide and Website, and to be working with the Child Poverty Action Group who will continue to provide expert help, training and reference materials for the CAB service.



WELLBEING AND KINSHIP CARE STUDY CONTINUES

Keep engaged and have your say...

My name is Sarah Jamieson; I am a PhD Student with the University of Edinburgh. My research is about **Kinship Carer and Child wellbeing**. I have introduced myself in two previous newsletters and have already met with some groups. I will continue with my research and I will visit more groups soon (always with cakes) to meet with carers and talk about the research project.

Research shows that a third of children in kinship care have emotional and behavioural problems. But with 95% of children living in informal kinship care, not enough is known about what help and support kinship carers and children in Scotland need.



I want to involve as many kinship carers as possible to help raise the profile of kinship carer and child wellbeing. It is so important that your family's needs are understood when support services are being developed. I hope you might be interested in taking part.

The project will be ready to launch soon. Please register your interest by clicking on the link below (or typing it into your web browser), or use your mobile phone to scan the image, and I will send you an information sheet with more detail about what taking part would involve.

<http://edin.ac/2hPpti4>



I look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you and best wishes,

Sarah Jamieson.



October 2017

KinshipCare
08000 28 22 33

THANK YOU

Thanks again to all of you who shared your stories, attended workshops, and shared experiences, information and advice, to connect with and support other Kinship Care families. **At Children 1st we feel truly privileged to have been part of the National Kinship Care Service over the years.**

Going forward, we continue to provide practical and emotional support to all families and carers for children through ParentLine. Open between 9am –9pm every weekday ParentLine provides a safe space to talk. If you are currently receiving support of any kind, please continue use ParentLine in the same way you always have. We continue to have a skilled and committed team who will always be ready to support you and your family both now and in the future.

ParentLine
SCOTLAND 08000 28 22 33

Monday - Friday

9am - 9pm

Email: parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk

Webchat: www.children1st.org.uk/parentline

Text-chat: 07860 022844 (standard network charges apply)