

Supporting kinship peer support groups

Join the Kinship Group Network

Free support and resources available to you and your group whenever you need them.

Support

A dedicated member of Kinship staff to provide support and guidance when you need support with your group. Someone to call and talk through a situation or challenge you might be facing (please note for advice and information, you can call the Kinship Advice Service).

Access to a Kinship Zoom account for running online group meetings (subject to agreement around data protection and data use).

Use of Kinship branding and logo "Part of the Kinship Group Network". Including access to promotional materials for your group like templates for posters and flyers.

Information

Access excellent training led by the Kinship team to support your group and members. Perfect preparation for those starting out to run your group - including safeguarding, boundaries and group activities.

Explore our online Peer Support Group Library. A growing library of tips, practical tools and real-life examples to help you set up and run your kinship group. From how to write a group agreement or risk-assessment to tips on handling difficult conversations.

Information, advice and signposting to other Kinship services. Opportunities to get your group involved in campaigning for change or signposting for the right advice and support - we can make sure you know where to go.

Community

Access to regular support and networking opportunities. Meet with other group leaders at the Kinship Group Network and access updates across Kinship and news in kinship care with the Community newsletter.

Invitations to join Kinship activities and offers. Celebrate and share Kinship Care Week activities, campaign for change or have your say in surveys and research.

Advice on how to grow your group and reach other kinship carers. We can advise you on how to find other kinship carers in your area. Tips on contacting local authorities, schools and community networks. In some cases, we might be able to contact carers on your behalf to invite them to your group (with consent).

Kinship Group Network

What we ask from you

As part of the Kinship Group Network we need your group's support too.

Support

An agreed person to contact about your group. A name, phone number, or email which will be listed on Kinship Compass so new kinship carers can join or find out more.

Complete short surveys about your group. Occasionally we might reach out to ask your thoughts or to share your experiences to help inform how we do things or as part of wider research into kinship care.

Whenever you can, actively get involved in meetings of the Kinship Group Network. Share your tips and experience to help others who are newer to leading groups.

Information

Share openly where and when you meet/plan to meet. Whether you meet in person or online, we want to make sure we can signpost other kinship carers to join your group.

Be clear on how your group is being/will be run. For example, having a routine with how often you meet, knowing how refreshments will be arranged, who can come and how costs will be covered.

Agreement confirming you are a self-sufficient group and that Kinship, as a charity is not liable for your group or its activities. Agreement to use the network logo and ensure Kinship brand is not compromised. We are here to offer you support, guidance and training at every step.

Community

Agreement to treat others fairly, with respect and consideration, no matter who they are. To confidently challenge inappropriate or offensive behaviour; and act on any safeguarding incidents or concerns (we can help advise you with these).

Accept that we may contact you with Kinship asks. This could be linked to research requests, information about your group and or local information.

Knowledge is power. Encourage your members to sign up to the Kinship Community email newsletter. Accessing updates across Kinship's services and news in kinship care that could support their family.