



Grandparents Plus State of the Nation Survey

Statistics

- **75% of carers were asked to look after the children – of these 79% by a social worker, 18% by a parent, 6% by police**
- **In 83% of cases, children’s services had been involved with the child’s family**
- **30% of the children were previously in foster or residential care**
- **53% were given no notice and took on the children in a crisis situation**
- **In 70% of cases, kinship carers understood that the children would be taken into care or adopted if they did not step in**
- **50% felt under pressure when making this decision**
- **84% said they hadn’t got the advice and information they needed when the child moved in**
- **95% said they hadn’t had any form of training to help prepare them for their kinship care role**
- **90% said they hadn’t been told by their local authority where to access peer support**



Statistics

- **Around 40% of the carers we work with have an SGO**
- **89% of kinship carers did not get the emotional support they needed when the child moved in**
- **74% of kinship carers did not get the financial support they needed when the child moved in**
- **84% of kinship carers do not get the emotional support they need now**
- **61% of kinship carers do not get the financial support they need now**
- **76% of kinship carers had not been told about peer support groups**

Quote from a kinship carer:-

“I wish I had gone into this process with more knowledge and understanding of the whole process as the stress has massively impacted on my marriage and my other children/ grandchildren”



What is needed?

1) A Kinship Care Act Kinship care must be recognised in law.

2: Comprehensive information and advice, specific to the needs of every kinship family as soon as they are asked to look after the child, for as long as they need it.

3: Kinship carers should have access to specialist and independent support (Not just those with previously looked after children)

4: Creating an informed and supportive network for carers and children

