

Motion 2: Supporting Kinship Carers-Amendment

Proposed: Cllr Pam Byrne

Seconded: Cllr Graham Sheldon

Council believes that children and young people who are unable to live with their parents should receive the support that they and their carers need to safeguard and promote their welfare, whether or not they are looked after by the state.

This Council notes:

1. 1. that there are 141,000 children in Kinship Care in England and Wales – carers who are friends or family who step up to care for a child where their parents can't. Many children and young people in the care of Oldham Council are looked after by Kinship Carers and the numbers are increasing.
2. 2. that in October 2024 the Government has published 'Kinship Care: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities' which pulls together the responsibilities of Councils in supporting all forms of kinship care (informal arrangements, private fostering, Kinship Foster Care, Child Arrangement Orders, Special Guardianship Orders and adoption).
3. 3. Research by the charity *Kinship* has highlighted the need for practical support for Kinship Carers - one third said their income had dropped by 50% after taking on caring responsibilities and one in five often or always feel lonely.
4. 4. There are Council employees who have taken on the responsibility of providing kinship care or who are approved Foster Carers Council recognises the increasing demands being made of the Fostering Service and the valuable work done by Kinship and Mainstream Foster Carers in caring for children looked after by the Council and the investment made into the service to support carers and those taking Special Guardianship Orders.

This Council resolves to:

1. 1. Instruct the Director of Children's Services to urgently review the new statutory guidance and ensure that the Council is compliant, particularly in making available the Kinship Local Offer on the Council's website.
2. 2. Become a Kinship Friendly Employer as soon as is practicable, working towards achieving the Gold Standard
3. 3. Record its thanks to all those who provide Kinship Care and mainstream Foster Care in Oldham.

4. Make sure the policy will have adequate financial support to implement all the aforementioned policies that the Council should already be adhering to and that a report will be made available at the next Council meeting on the implementation of this policy.