

July 2025

KINSHIP SUPPORTS

Support for kinship carers, and for children and young people in kinship care in West Dunbartonshire



What is a kinship carer?

Kinship carers are family or friends who care for a child when their parents are unable to do so. This could be for a short period of time during a crisis, or longer term and on a permanent basis if returning home is not an option. It can mean big changes to the kinship carer's life, and the child's life.

There are lots of supports in West Dunbartonshire, and this leaflet is designed to help you find the right support for you and your family.

These supports can be accessed by any kinship carer. Each section provides a summary of what support is on offer, and how to access the various services.

Financial Support



Working 4U Money Team

As a Kinship Carer social work will make a referral for you to the Working4U Money Team at West Dunbartonshire Council. An Advisor will contact you to offer benefit advice and make sure you receive the correct amount of Kinship Payments.



Citizens Advice



[West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Bureau \(CAB\)](#)



0800 484 0136 (Monday Tuesday & Thursday 8:30am - 4:30pm, Wednesday 10am - 4:30pm, Closed Friday)



Bridgend House, 179 High Street, Dumbarton G82 1NW (Appointment must be made in advance via website or phone)

West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare

The Community Foodshare provide a variety of supports to anyone in West Dunbartonshire who needs help, including:

- Emergency food parcels
- School Uniform bank (new uniforms, school bags, jackets and shoes)
- School holiday brunch bags (breakfast and lunch bags during holidays)
- Fuel bank (gas/electricity vouchers for those at risk of disconnection)
- Christmas toy bank (presents)
- Baby bank (baby clothes, nappies and equipment)

Open Mon-Fri between 10am - 3.30pm



01389 764135 or Freephone 0800 345 7050

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT



**Kinship Carers
Support Group**

Local group of kinship carers who offer regular support to kinship carers in West Dunbartonshire through group meetings, activities, providing advice and guidance. "Our aim is to support families in Kinship Care."



<https://www.facebook.com/kinshipcarewestdunbartonshire>



kinshipcarewestdunbartonshire@gmail.com



07490720123

KINSHIP CARE SUPPORT LINE (CHILDREN FIRST)

The Kinship Care Support Line provides free, confidential, impartial advice to Kinship Families and Professionals working with them.



0808 800 0006 (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm)



You can start a webchat www.childrenfirst.org.uk/supportline

TOGETHERALL

Togetherall is a free digital mental health platform, to provide all residents aged 16+ with round-the-clock access to trained clinicians. West Dunbartonshire residents can benefit from this safe, online community to share experiences, connect with others, and access practical mental health resources. Register online to access this, selecting "My area is registered" when signing up.



<http://account.v2.togetherall.com/register>



SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN KINSHIP CARE



Y-Sort it offer a great deal of supports to children and young people. For children and young people in kinship care Y-sort it offer Care Connections, Intandem Mentoring and youth groups

The intandem service provides long-term, 1:1 mentoring for children and young people aged 8–14 who are looked after at home or in kinship care. Trained volunteer mentors meet weekly with their mentees, building consistent and trusted relationships that promote confidence, emotional wellbeing, and social connection.

Care Connections offers flexible, holistic support for care-experienced young people aged 10–16, both in school and in the wider community. Each young person is matched with a dedicated Support Worker who helps them explore their interests, set personal goals, and build the skills and confidence they need to thrive.

Y-Sort It have a base in Clydebank and Bonhill

 0141 941 3308  info@ysortit.com

ROUTES (SCOTTISH FAMILIES AFFECTED BY ALCOHOL AND DRUGS)



Scottish Families

Affected by Alcohol & Drugs

Routes supports young people aged 12-16 years old who are affected by family drug and alcohol use.

A key focus is giving them positive childhood experiences, creating peer support and advocating on their behalf.

Kinship carers can refer young people to the service by contacting Pam Burns on 07887 555857



www.sfad.org.uk





What is Advocacy?

Advocacy is about making sure that all children who are in care get a chance to have their views heard about decisions that affect their life. An Advocacy worker can spend time with a child and support them to say what they feel or want. The Advocacy worker will listen to the child's views and can share these at review meetings or Children's Panels. They can support children to understand what's happening and what their rights are. Advocacy workers are independent from the local authority, and they are only there to support the child. The goal of Advocacy is to make sure the child rights are respected and their voice is heard.



West Dunbartonshire has two independent Advocacy workers from Who Cares? Scotland and anyone can make a referral. These workers are able to support children and young people with Review meetings and Children's Hearings.

Sorcha Tams: 07598 580 320

Lynn Johnson: 07701 224000



<http://www.whocarescotland.org/get-support/advocacy>



Partners in Advocacy are an additional Advocacy service in West Dunbartonshire that anyone can refer to. The Partners in Advocacy worker is only able to support children or young people around Children's Hearings



<https://www.pia.scot/what-we-do/information-for-children-young-people>

T: 0330 533 0238



Children and Young people influencing change



We are committed to listening to children and young people in West Dunbartonshire, and making sure their experiences and views influence and steer how our services are designed and developed. In these groups, everyone gets to speak up – in their own way – so services and adults understand how to make things better. It could be group discussions, making videos, art, or planning events.

Voices of the Promise are a project run by Action for Children in West Dunbartonshire, who support children and young people with care experience to influence change through fun and creative activities and projects.

Get in touch to find out more:



Kiera at: 07971 094801



VOTP@actionforchildren.org.uk

There is a Champions Board Participation Worker in West Dunbartonshire, provided by Who Cares? Scotland. This group support children and young people with care experience to have their voices heard and to influence change, as well as having fun and building friendships.

Get in touch with Sara McNeely to find out more:



07849087461



smcneely@whocaresScotland.org



DISTRESS BRIEF INTERVENTION

The Distress Brief Intervention service is for young people aged 14–24 (or up to 26 if care experienced) who are in distress and facing issues like anxiety, low mood, or self-harm. A GP, teacher, or social worker can make a referral. Someone will contact within 24 hours and offer support for up to 14 days.



Distress Brief Intervention
Connected Compassionate Support



Bags full of love provide a backpack filled with essential items for when child or young person comes into care.



07305 039910



bagsfulloflove.org@gmail.com



Website providing information on Care Experience Entitlements, including for infants, children and young people who are in kinship care.



<http://young.scot/get-informed/support-for-care-experienced/>

WD FOR FAMILIES HUBS

The WD for Families Hubs are fully staffed with skilled workers who can support you to access appropriate supports at the right time for you and your family.

Our WD for Families Hubs are open from 9.00am until 4pm Tuesday to Thursday each week. There are hubs in Clydebank, Bonhill and Dumbarton.



<http://sites.google.com/ourcloud.buzz/wdforfamilies/>



WD WELLBEING WEBSITE

Find information to support and improve wellbeing and emotional health with extensive local and national support services listed.



<http://www.wdwellbeing-info/>



West
Dunbartonshire
Wellbeing