

Croydon's Council's Special Guardianship Support Services offer

Croydon Council recognise that while being a Special Guardian is a rewarding role it can also be a challenging one at times. We understand that special guardian's require support and understanding.

We aim to support Special Guardians in the most effective way and will work alongside them to create a package of support that works for the family.

Special Guardians can contact us for support and advice at any point whilst the Special Guardianship Order is active.

We offer a task focused service and will work with Special Guardians and the children they care for on a short-term basis, our involvement will typically last between 6-12 weeks. After the initial 6 or 12 weeks, we will review the level of support required and decide whether to extend our involvement or whether it can end.

We can support in a number of ways, but the support provided will depend on the family's individual circumstances and needs.

Our Special Guardians have access to a variety of services, our generic support offer includes:

- General advice, guidance, and information around the Special Guardian role
- Special Guardianship Support assessment (Needs assessments)
- Review of family time arrangements (contact)
- Coordinating services to work as a team around your family
- Signposting to organisations who specifically offer support and guidance to Special Guardians.
- Details of local Kinship Support Groups
- Signposting to services who can support the family and support with accessing resources.
- Management of financial queries, including completing the annual financial assessment
- Access to Croydon's Training Portal – our specially commissioned service gives special guardians and foster carers, access to a broad range of training to support them in their role
- Access to the Adoption and Special Guardian Support Fund (ASGSF) for therapeutic services (for children that were previously looked after).
- Emotional support and a safe space to talk.
- Croydon Virtual School –The Virtual School can offer advice and guidance to any carer for a previously looked after child

Training

Special guardians can access a variety of online resources to develop the necessary skills to support the children they care for.

There are lots of courses to explore which cover a variety of subjects. As a starting point, we recommend:

- Helping Children Cope with Trauma
- Therapeutic parenting with PACE
- Attachments
- Child Development

There are also courses that cover specific issues that may be relevant to SGO families, including:

- Coping with challenging behaviour and NVR
- Positive Parenting
- Family time
- Understanding ADHD

Special guardians who interested in any of the above courses or are keen to learn something new, can be given a six-month training licence which will them with access to the online training portal.

How to Contact Us

If you are a Special Guardian and require Special Guardianship Support services, then please contact us. We have a dedicated email box for special guardians, which is monitored by a duty social worker Mon-Friday, 9-5pm. We aim to respond to all enquires within 72 working hours.

Email: postordersupportteam@croydon.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 222 5756