



Practice Standards on SGO Assessments and Kinship Fostering Assessments (Connected Carers) **2024**

Children who grow up in kinship care often have better outcomes than children who grow up in other types of non-parental care. Evidence shows that, compared to these groups, children in kinship care:

- are more likely to have stable, permanent homes;
- achieve higher levels of employment later in life;
- have better social and emotional wellbeing and better long-term physical health compared to children in foster or residential care;
- are more likely to be kept with their siblings compared to those in foster care;
- are more likely to report that they feel loved.

DFE Championing Kinship Care – The National Kinship Care Strategy – December 2023.

Joint work between the Children’s Social Work team, Kinship Fostering Assessment Team and Childcare Legal Team is essential throughout the process.

Kinship Care Assessments – Special Guardianship and Fostering.

Viability / Reg 24

<p>1.</p>	<p>Referral received by Kinship Assessment team into Friends and Family Fostering (to be renamed Kinship Fostering and SGO) tray and includes Child Social Worker Team Manager oversight re quality and rationale for the referral by Child Social Work team manager and evidence that they have received the Police National Computer checks and done an LCS review.</p>	<p>Child Social Work Team</p>	
<p>2</p>	<p>Kinship Fostering Team Manager on duty screens referral to ensure it is complete and returns to team and discusses any queries with Child Social Worker and their manager.</p>	<p>TM / AP in Kinship Fostering Team.</p>	<p>Within 2 working days</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Referral accepted by Kinship Assessment Team – Team Manager on duty allocates to Supervising Social Worker to complete viability / Reg 24.</p>	<p>TM /AP in Kinship Fostering Team</p>	<p>Reg 24 – same day Viability – within 2 days</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Supervising Social Worker and Child Social Worker visit potential carer and Supervising Social Worker completes report and sends to manager for authorisation including analysis of information in Medical Summary Report from GP. At the visit the Supervising Social Worker will share the</p>	<p>Supervising Social Worker and Child Social Worker.</p>	<p>Reg 24 3 working days. Unless escalated as urgent</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kinship Care Assessment Plan (formerly fostering assessment plan) including dates of assessment visits and expectations • Consent form, AH1 and DBS form for applicants so they can start to gather information • Details of online access to Safeguarding Training and foster carer training system • Financial Assessment form for SGO means test. <p>Supervising Social Worker discusses any concerns re suitability with Child Social Worker to identify potential solutions and agree recommendation.</p> <p>If proceeding to Reg 24, provisional date agreed for Placement Planning Meeting.</p>		Viability – 2 weeks.
5.	<p>Duty manager in Kinship Assessment team completes management oversight and if request is for Regulation 24, Supervising Social Worker sends to Agency Decision Maker for decision.</p> <p>Meeting to take place with Supervising Social Worker, Child Social Work team and Legal team if the decision is not to recommend approval and or full assessment.</p> <p>If there is a decision not to proceed then the applicant should be informed verbally within 1 day and should get written confirmation sent within 2 working days.</p>	<p>Team Manager Kinship Team (and Agency Decision Maker if Reg 24)</p> <p>Supervising Social Worker.</p>	Within 1 working day.

Full assessment for SGO or Kinship Fostering

<p>9.</p>	<p>Decision to proceed with Reg 24 – Kinship Assessment Team Manager requests panel date. Supervising Social Worker contacts the carer and visits to agree timetable of visits over first 5 weeks of assessment period. Panel date confirmed at next Panel Planning Meeting. Supervising Social Worker ensures applicant has access to training programme and shares information about SGO.</p> <p>Child element of Form C delegated to Child Social Worker, and they will complete.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Decision to proceed with full assessment – if decision has been taken to initiate proceedings TM allocates Supervising Social Worker and agrees court submission date with legal, Child Social Work Team and identifies required fostering panel date. Supervising Social Worker contacts, the carers to agree timetable of visits over first 5 weeks of assessment period. This will likely require 2 visits a week. Supervising Social Worker ensures applicant has access to training programme and shares information about SGO.</p> <p>Child Social Worker to complete children’s part of Form C</p> <p>If in Public Law Outline TM to consult with legal and Child Social Work Team to agree timetable for allocation.</p>	<p>Kinship Team Manager and Supervising Social Worker</p> <p>Child Social worker.</p>	<p>Within 1 day of approval or child being placed.</p> <p>Within 2 weeks of decision to proceed to full assessment.</p> <p>Within 2 days of decision to proceed to full assessment.</p> <p>Within 2 weeks</p>
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	Decision making re prioritisation of assessment allocation to be reviewed in Legal Gateway each week.		
10	SGO social worker and child social worker complete joint visit to the family to explain SGO support offer, Adoption Support Fund access and start process of gathering information for financial support to inform the calculation of future allowance for support plan.	SGO SW	Within 2 weeks of the decision to proceed to full assessment.
11	Case supervision with Kinship Fostering Team Manager and Supervising Social Worker to take place monthly. Review Declaration of Compliance which Supervising Social Worker should start, reflection on suitability and areas of strength and where support is needed.	Supervising Social Worker and Kinship Team Manager.	Monthly
12	<p>Mid-point review meeting with Kinship Fostering Team Manager and Supervising Social Worker in the Kinship Assessment team, Child Social Worker and Team Manager to take place to discuss progress of assessment, review completion of stat checks and references using Declaration of Compliance, share information from visits, identify and mitigate any vulnerabilities, areas of support or potential delay. Consideration given to whether it is more appropriate to end a Stage One or complete a Brief Report if recommendation is not to approve. Legal should be consulted regarding this decision.</p> <p>Likely final outcome to be discussed i.e. will we / should we achieve SGO?</p> <p>SGO planning to take place:</p>	Supervising Social Worker, Child Social Worker and their team managers.	5 weeks from decision to start the assessment.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are carers involved in facilitating contact if children are in their care so we can be testing this out and supporting with it whilst still in proceedings? 2. If child is not in their care, could they be, or is there a contact plan for them? 3. Is financial assessment and SGO Support plan complete so there is enough time for applicants to seek advice. <p>PDP to be in place with clear plan for applicants to complete safeguarding training and Skills to Foster.</p>		
13	Supervising Social Workers completes Declaration of Compliance and submits assessment to Kinship Assessment Team Manager for Quality Assurance. The recommendation to approve or not approve is not to be made all stat checks are returned.	Supervising Social Worker	17 working days before panel date.
14	Assessment shared with Legal team for their comments. Manager confirms Declaration of Compliance and completes management oversight of assessment and Personal Development Plan. Assessments should not be filed with court prior to the fostering panel and / or Agency Decision Maker decision as the process of assessment is not complete until these stages are undertaken.	Legal	5 days
15	Submit to Panel Advisor for QA.	Panel Advisor	12 days before panel date.
16	Fostering Panel make recommendation to approve / not approve or defer for further information.	Fostering Panel	
17.	Agency Decision Maker decision requires a recommendation from panel and must be made within 5 days of the minutes being received.	Agency Decision Maker	

