

Kinship Care Advice Service for Scotland

Susan Hunter KCASS project coordinator



What Kinship carers tell us they need:

- Immediate needs on arrival of child includes resources and financial support.
- Support to navigate extremely complex legal & welfare benefits systems, when family's need is immediate
- Support with navigating rights and entitlements depending on how the child has come to live with them
- Support to Navigate levels of assistance, support, including administration of Kinship Care Allowances, depending on local authority area
- Emotional support for the whole family – including mental health and family wellbeing
- Adequate housing – often overcrowding
- Education – Lack of support and understanding of impact of trauma on children. Additional needs of children in Kinship Care not being recognized.



And further enhanced needs:

- Changes in role within the family and family dynamics and relationship – support to navigate this.
- Helping the child make sense of what is happening.
- Managing and maintaining employment and other caring responsibilities
- Emotional exhaustion and potential to feel isolated
- Stigma – Kinship Carers too afraid to say that they are struggling
- Shame – Kinship Carers seen as part of the problem
- Suddenly caring for a child family situations. Lack of preparation and training

Meet the Minister meeting

Five members of the KCASS Advisory Group recently met with Ms Don - Minister for Children, Young people and The Promise

Impact of Kinship Care Orders (KCO) highlighted by KCASS Advisory group.

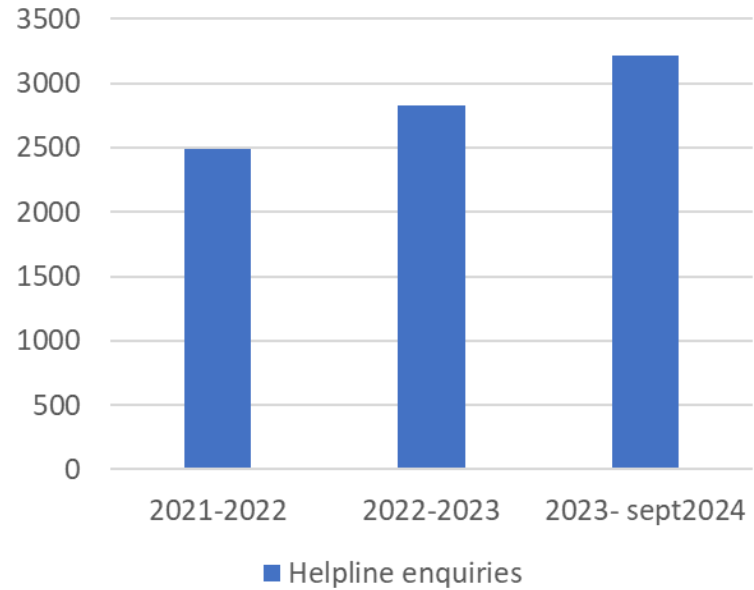
- Families feel forced into taking out Kinship Care Orders.
- No proper explanation of the implications for the family.
- No further support from social work for the families when KCO in place.
- Lack of support within the education system.
- Being forced back to court by parents who wish to have the order changed and the impact of this on the family.
- Kinship Carers are now required to fulfil the work requirements.
- KCA ceases between 16 years of age and 18 years of age with no entitlement to continuing care
- Lack of permanence orders being made by Local Authorities.



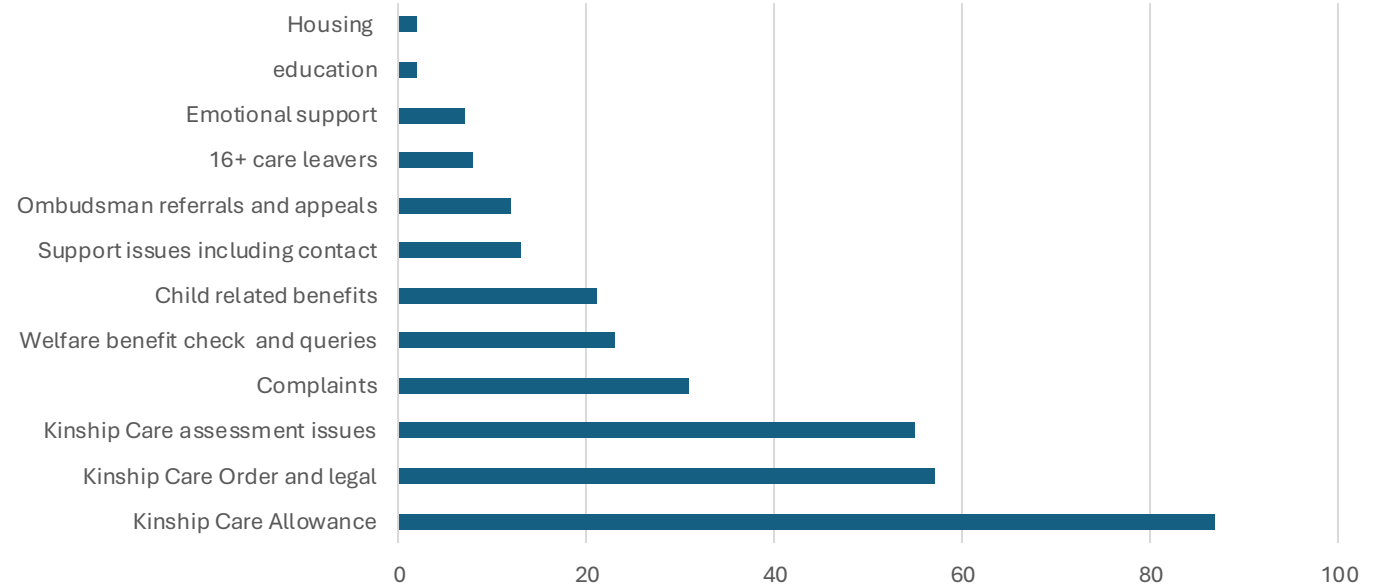


Enquiries to the service

Helpline enquiries



Themes of enquiries



Useful Resources

- Our website <https://kinship.scot/> [Leaflets](#) and [support groups](#) on
- Email address advice@kinshipscot.org
- Helpline number **0808 800 0006** (Mon to Fri, 10am – 2.30pm)
- What now? booklet – ask for copies
- Facebook page [@kinshipcarecas/](#) and Twitter [@KinshipScotland](#)
- Our [YouTube](#) channel for recordings of Kinship Care Week events
- [The Promise](#) Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) [factsheets for kinship carers](#)



Anything you'd like to ask?

Susan Hunter

Kinship Care Advice Service for Scotland

Email: susan.hunter@kinshiptscot.org

KCASS advice line email: advice@kinshiptscot.org