


Progress update for The Triangle Trust August 2022 - March 2023



Areas of investment

 Recruitment of Policy and Public Affairs Manager

 Working with a consultant to develop Kinship's press office and media profile

 Parliamentary monitoring system



#ValueOurLove Campaign launch - Parliamentary Reception

- Attended by 27 MPs, 5 Peers, 27 other senior stakeholders

“I am determined that we will not forget kinship carers. Will not forget the children you care for. We will not forget the difference you make. And above all, we will always remember the love you give.”

Bridget Phillipson MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Education



MP promotion of the campaign

Michael Gove backs charity campaign to support struggling kinship carers

Facebook Like Share

Thursday, 20 October 2023



Michael Gove, MP for Surrey Heath, has backed Kinship charity's new #ValueOurLove campaign which aims to secure urgent government support for kinship families across England and Wales.

Kinship care is when a family relative or close friend steps up to care for a child when their parents aren't able to. Kinship carers, including grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and other family members and friends, are helping more than 152,000

Ella Rowan @EllaRowan
A pleasure to attend @kinshipcharity reception in Parliament and hear some powerful speeches from kinship carers.
We owe them so much, incredibly important that support for kinship families is improved.
#valueourlove



Robert Halfon MP @RobertHalfonMP
Proud to attend @kinshipcharity event in Parliament today to support the launch of their #ValueOurLove campaign 🙌🙌



Manda de Cordoba MP @MandaDeCordoba
Too many #KinshipCarers still feel unrecognised, undervalued and unsupported.
Last week I attended @kinshipcharity's #ValueOurLove campaign launch to help raise awareness of their important role in children's lives and our society



Andrew Davies MP @GwynnMP
Proud to be backing @kinshipcharity's #ValueOurLove campaign.
I feel so lucky to be a kinship carer and I wouldn't change it for the world. However, the system is extremely hard to navigate, and carers are crying out for support.
Find out more here bit.ly/3VAaYgC 🙌



Alex Cunningham MP @AlexCunninghamMP
It was a real pleasure to meet John, a kinship carer from Middlesbrough, @kinshipcharity's event today.
I'll always champion kinship carers in Parliament & Stockton North, ensure their voices heard in Westminster and campaign for the support they deserve.
#ValueOurLove



Campaign MP action

Emails have been sent to all MPs in England & Wales by a constituent, with more than 10,200 emails sent

ADD YOUR NAME: Tell your MP to support kinship carers and keep children within their families.

6,618 People have signed so far! Will you help us reach 10,000?

First and last name

First and last name

Your email

Email

Your postcode

Postcode

Country

- Select -

Are you a kinship carer?

Yes, I am No, I am not

Do you give permission for Kinship to contact you about this campaign and related issues?

Yes, I give Kinship the permission to send me updates on this campaign and other ways that I can get involved in their work

No, I don't want Kinship to contact me

By clicking on this, you agree to the Kinship privacy policy: [https://www.kinship.org.uk/privacy-policy](#) It is advised to be aware that in England and Wales, if you fail to notify us of a change of email address, we will still email you. We will not be able to contact you by other means, and you may receive a letter from Kinship in the future. The names you will receive in the future are subject to the usual data protection restrictions on using letters to inform others about their families.

Dear [MP Name]

You know every child needs love. That's why when parents struggle with a child, it's often best if they can be brought up by a grandparent, uncle, aunt, sibling, other relative or a family friend. Kinship carers know who can provide the love and stability children need when their lives fall on the care system. This is called kinship care.

There are 402,800 children in kinship families across England and Wales. [Kinship: A Guide to Kinship Care in the UK](#) [Kinship: A Guide to Kinship Care in the UK](#) [Kinship: A Guide to Kinship Care in the UK](#)

The need to keep families together for some young children is especially true for those who are severely ill, disabled, abused, and have been abused, children in residential care, children with special needs, children with mental health problems, children with physical disabilities and more. This is why children in foster care are best with their families.

Kinship families are underfunded. Most don't receive the essential support that children in care and those leaving care need to get on.

Kinship families aren't paid - they are facing a real or looming crisis. Lots of kinship carers are struggling to pay all their household bills and even a first job, or those not getting the support they need may be unable to continue to care for their kinship child as a result. Each is free to accept or refuse.

The need to keep children safe is essential. 75% of carers receive no support for the regular care of their children, and 60% of carers receive no support for the regular care of their children.

As the Government's mission is to improve the lives of children in care, it is important we keep up the pressure to improve support for kinship families.

These values (Kinship Care) are key to our strategy which supports those that might struggle, whether in foster care or in care. The Government's mission is to improve the lives of children in care, it is important we keep up the pressure to improve support for kinship families.

- **Equalise relationships between foster and kinship families**
- **Equalise access to training and support between kinship carers and foster carers**
- **Equalise rules between adoption and kinship families**
- **Equalise support between children in kinship care and those in care**

In a time of constrained budgets - choosing not to value the love of family members who are the future of generations of children is a choice we should not make.

Love provides the best environment for children, family and the economy. The love and stability of kinship care is the best environment for children, family and the economy. The love and stability of kinship care is the best environment for children, family and the economy. The love and stability of kinship care is the best environment for children, family and the economy.

As my MP I would appreciate it if you could support the Kinship Our Love campaign by:

1. Writing to the Secretary of State for Education urging her to increase support for kinship families.
2. Speaking to the Secretary of State for Education about the Kinship Our Love campaign.

Kinship families in your area

In Newcastle upon Tyne Central:

471 children in kinship care

295 children in local authority care

£18.84 M cost to the state if children in kinship care were instead looked after in local authority care

In North East England:

37% of kinship carers want the lack of support they receive to be the main reason they have to stop caring for their kinship child

88% of kinship carers feel they do not get the support that they need from their local authority

62% of kinship carers do not feel they can always meet their children's needs in their current financial situation

Website: [www.kinship.org.uk](#) | [www.kinship.org.uk](#)



Downing Street petition delivery



Meetings with more than 40 key stakeholders



"We recognise that we need to make kinship carers feel valued, we know that you save the government a lot of money, and that generally speaking, kids do better in kinship placements than other care arrangements. We need to show you that you are valued." Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing, Claire Couthino MP



Kinship Care Week

Widespread MP engagement at events and on social media

 Chi Onwurah 
@ChiOnwurah

It was great to meet kinship carers from [#Blakelaw](#) and [#WestDenton](#) who came together to celebrate [#KinshipCareWeek2022](#).

Kinship carers do such brilliant work stepping up to support children in [#Newcastle](#), they certainly deserve a thank you.

Get involved!
kinship.org.uk/get-involved/k...



ALT

Kinship

 Catherine McKinnell 
@CatMcKinnell

Good to join [#KinshipCarers](#) from across the North East [#KinshipCareWeek2022](#) to hear directly from them about their experiences. As Vice Chair of [@APPGKinshipCare](#) I'll continue to campaign to support them and the children that they care for [@kinshipcharity](#)



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 Simon Lightwood MP 
@simonlightwood

Great to support [#KinshipCareWeek2022](#) celebrating the thousands of family members and close friends who step up to care for children when their parents aren't able to.

Thank you to everyone for sharing your stories with me today.

Find out more at kinship.org.uk/get-involved/k...



1:02 PM - Oct 4, 2022 - Twitter for Android



Briefed Parliamentarians for 4 debates and advised on an Early Day Motion

“...according to the most recently published survey by the charity Kinship, more than two thirds of kinship carers feel that they are not getting the support they need. That is surely not acceptable.” Helen Hayes MP, Shadow Minister for Education

“...noble Lords can go on to the charity Kinship’s website and look at each parliamentary constituency to see how many children are in... kinship arrangements....Does the Minister not think we need to ensure that all those children have the possibility of kinship care? One way to do that is to make sure that financial and other support is available for them; it should not be left to discretionary arrangements by local authorities that may or may not pay. Will the Minister and the Government give real consideration to making sure there is that support for these parents and relatives?”

The Lord Storey CBE



Media activity

340+ pieces of media coverage

- ITV Tonight programme
- Daily Mail advice column
- iNews
- The Metro
- OK Magazine
- Sunday Mirror
- The House magazine
- The Evening Standard
- Steph's packed lunch
- The Big Issue
- The Express



MailOnline  **Bel Mooney**

And finally... Inspired by stories of kinship care

It was an honour to speak at the launch (in the Houses of Parliament) of an important new campaign called Value Our Love — organised by Britain's leading kinship care charity.

Telling the assembled MPs and other key people (as well as some brave and brilliant carers themselves) that writing this column has made me so aware of the complexity of family life, I confessed I didn't know about kinship care.

I hadn't thought what it means for a family member to take on a child who might otherwise be destined for local authority care. Yet this matters so much.

Grandparents, uncles, aunts, older siblings... these are the people who open homes and hearts to young people who could prove challenging, so great are the problems they've had to face.

Contact Bel

Bel answers readers' questions on emotional and relationship problems each week.

Write to Bel Mooney, Daily Mail, 2 Derry Street, London W8 5TT, or email bel.mooney@dailymail.co.uk.

THE BIG ISSUE

'The government takes advantage of our love': Families caring for child relatives plead for help

Families caring for children in their own homes are being left out of care and support services because of a lack of funding.



Celebrity support

Emmerdale's Jay Kontzle becomes #ValueOurLove campaign ambassador



What our kinship carers say:

“It was great to meet other kinship carers from around the country. Being able to bring the #ValueOurLove campaign to the heart of Parliament is huge, we are making some headway in being recognised but have a long way to go.

It is empowering meeting 'movers and shakers' who are as passionate about the children we love and care for whilst telling those who are unaware of kinship care why they should support our children and get behind our campaign.”

Kinship carer, John

“What a fantastic day, it's great to see #KinshipCare finally being recognised and seeing MPs as excited as we are that change is on the horizon.”

Kinship carer, Janice



What next?

- Further engagement with MPs in the run up to the Government's response to Care Review
- Responding to the Government's response to the Care Review
- Development of more in-depth policy evidence on key issues e.g. paid leave or financial allowances
- Developing our policy and campaigning in Wales

