

THE SGO PASSPORT:

*a support guide for
Special Guardians in Leicestershire*



Children placed on a Special Guardianship Order from care can have ongoing needs, and you and your child may benefit from support. This is the support Special Guardians in Leicestershire may be entitled to

For your child

Schools are asked to give all children placed on a Special Guardianship Order from care priority access to schools, which means that your child should be able to attend whichever school you think best meets their needs. Guidance to school admission authorities can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-code--2

Your child will also benefit from the Early Years Pupil Premium and Pupil Premium – additional education funding to help meet their needs. If your child is 2 years old, you can take up the offer of a free early education place. For more information about provision in your area you should contact your local authority's Family Information Service. You can also find out more at www.gov.uk/free-early-education

If your child needs extra support, you can ask Post SGO Service to assess their needs for SGO support services. If you think your child may have special educational needs, you can ask Leicestershire Local Authority to assess these needs too. Please contact SGOSupport@leics.gov.uk

For you as a Special Guardian

Special Guardians may have priority for council housing. If you are living in council housing and claiming Housing Benefit or Universal Credit while waiting for a child to move in, you can also apply for funding (Discretionary Housing Payments) so that you are not penalised financially while you have an empty spare room.



SGO Support Services

Leicestershire, provide and fund a range of support services for children on a Special Guardianship Order including:

- counselling, information and advice
- help with behavioural, attachment and other problems
- money e.g. to help with special care needs, or for former foster parents
- help with contact between your child and his or her family
- meetings and events to enable groups of Special Guardians and their children to get together
- training to help Special Guardians to meet the needs of their child.
- short breaks for your child with a Personal Assistant through Direct Payments (where eligible)

Support Services Advice

Leicestershire has an SGO Support Service Team to help you access support and other specialist services, such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). The Adoption Support Fund www.gov.uk/guidance/adoption-support-fund-asf is also available to finance certain services and therapies for previously Looked After children. Where an assessment identifies that therapeutic services would be beneficial to your family, Leicestershire will apply to the Fund on your behalf, who will then release funding to the local authority. Leicestershire will talk to you about who can provide the types of service that you need and which provider you would prefer. If you want further advice and support <https://compass.kinship.org.uk/advice-and-information/special-guardianship-orders/>

Which local authority?

The local authority that places the child with you is responsible for assessing your SGO support needs for three years after the Order has been made. After three years it becomes the responsibility of the local authority where you live (if different).

Comments and Complaints

If you are unhappy with the support provided by Leicestershire , or with the time taken to carry out an assessment, you can complain under Leicestershire complaints procedure www.leicestershire.gov.uk/about-the-council/contact-us/complaints-and-comments.

Thereafter if you are not satisfied you may be able to refer your complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman (www.lgo.org.uk).



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