



FAMILY RIGHTS GROUP
Keeping children safe in their families

Kinship Care - where are we up to?

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ABOUT US

NEED HELP OR ADVICE?

POLICY AND CAMPAIGNS

TRAINING & EVENTS

ONLINE SHOP



Welcome To Family Rights Group

We are the charity that works with parents in England and Wales whose children are in need, at risk or are in the care system and with members of the wider family who are raising children unable to remain at home.

We advise parents, grandparents, other relatives and friends about their rights and options when social workers or courts make decisions about their children's welfare.

We campaign for families to have a voice, be treated fairly and get help early to prevent problems escalating. We champion family group conferences and other policies and practices that keep children safe within their family network.

Advice Sheets

Advice FAQs

Discussion Boards

Sign up to our e-newsletter

By joining the Family Rights Group Supporters Network you'll get regular updates, hear about ways to get involved and make a crucial contribution to our work.

PLEASE SIGN UP NOW

READ ABOUT

Latest News

Commissioning our Services

Family Group Conferences

Family and friends carers

OUR ADVICE SERVICE

We can advise if you are a parent, friend or relative and social workers are involved in your child's life, or you need extra support from Children's Services.

Call our advice line on: 0808 801 0366

Visit our: Discussion boards

Visit our: Need help and advice section

Visit our: Frequently asked questions

Visit our: Advice Sheets

Visit our: Child protection and family group conference films

Tweets by @FamilyRightsGp

Family Rights Group Retweeted

Cathy Ashley @CathyAshley

New-Please watch* -a film Mutual Expectations on a charter for children services & parents *aside from my cringe bit twitter.com/yrfamilyrvoic...

29 Sep

Family Rights Group Retweeted

Caroline Lynch @CarolineSSLynch

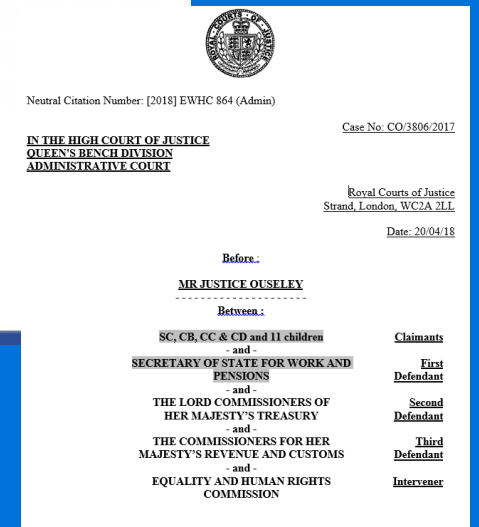
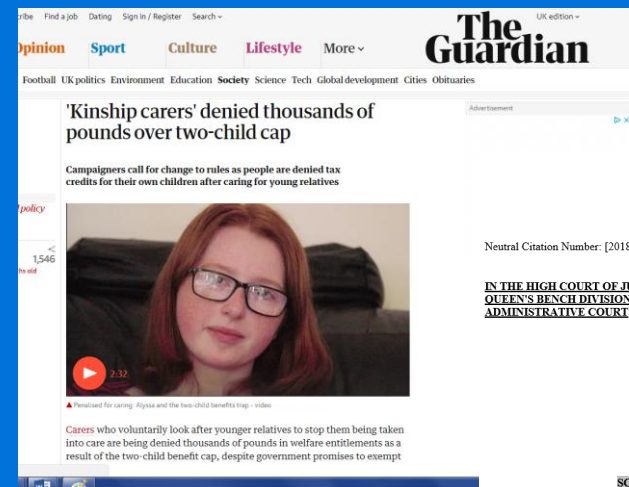
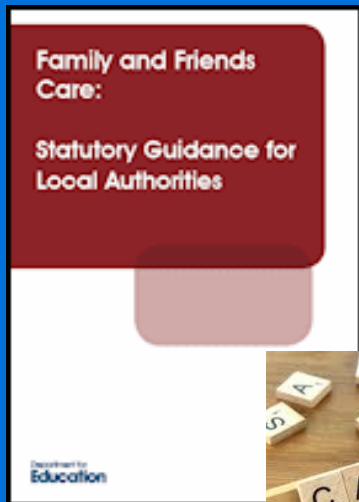
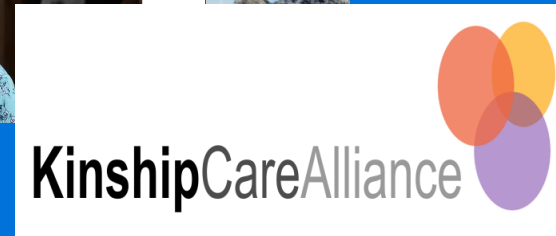
Fab to give presentation abt @FamilyRightsGp young

Embed

View on Twitter



A question worth posing!



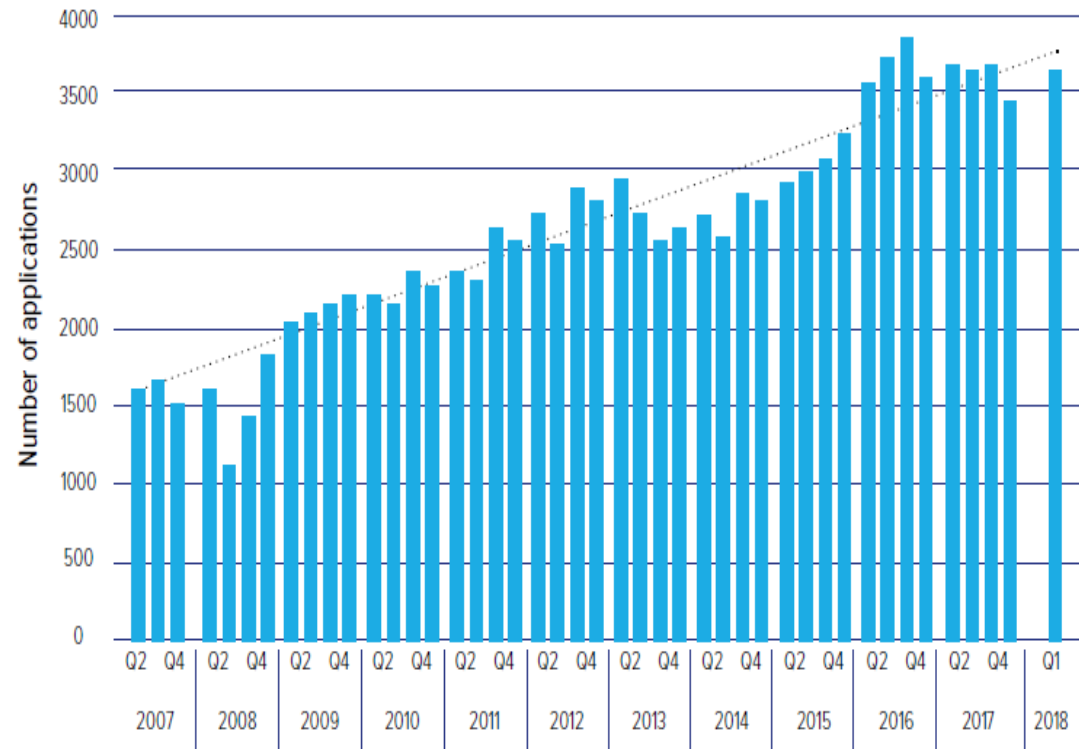
“We are facing a crisis and, truth be told, we have no very clear strategy for meeting the crisis. What is to be done?”

Sir James Munby, 2016

- A “collation of the willing” – sector led
- Examine the reasons for the rise in care proceedings and number of children in care in England & Wales – knowledge synthesis
- Take account of the current national economic, financial, legal and policy context that impacts on families and on local authority & court practice
- Identify solutions at practice, organisational and system level to tackle the crisis – England & Wales.

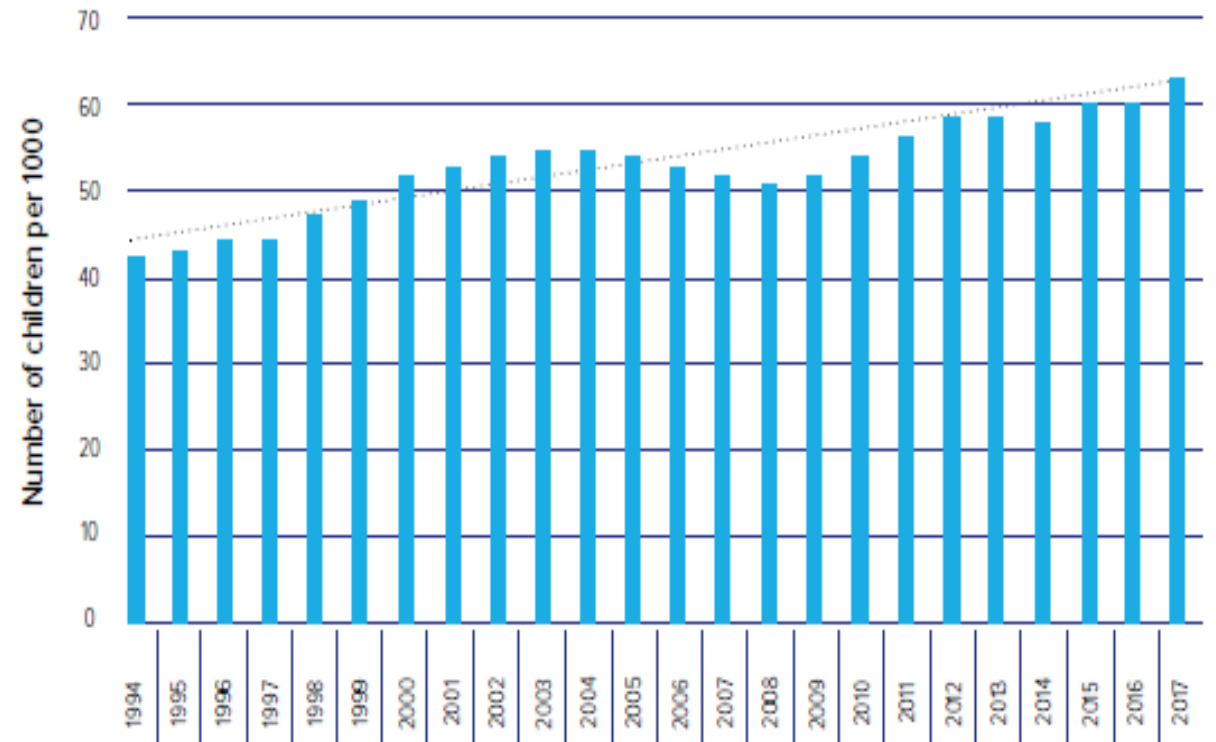
Public care applications in England

(source: Cafcass)



Number of looked after children per 10,000 children in England

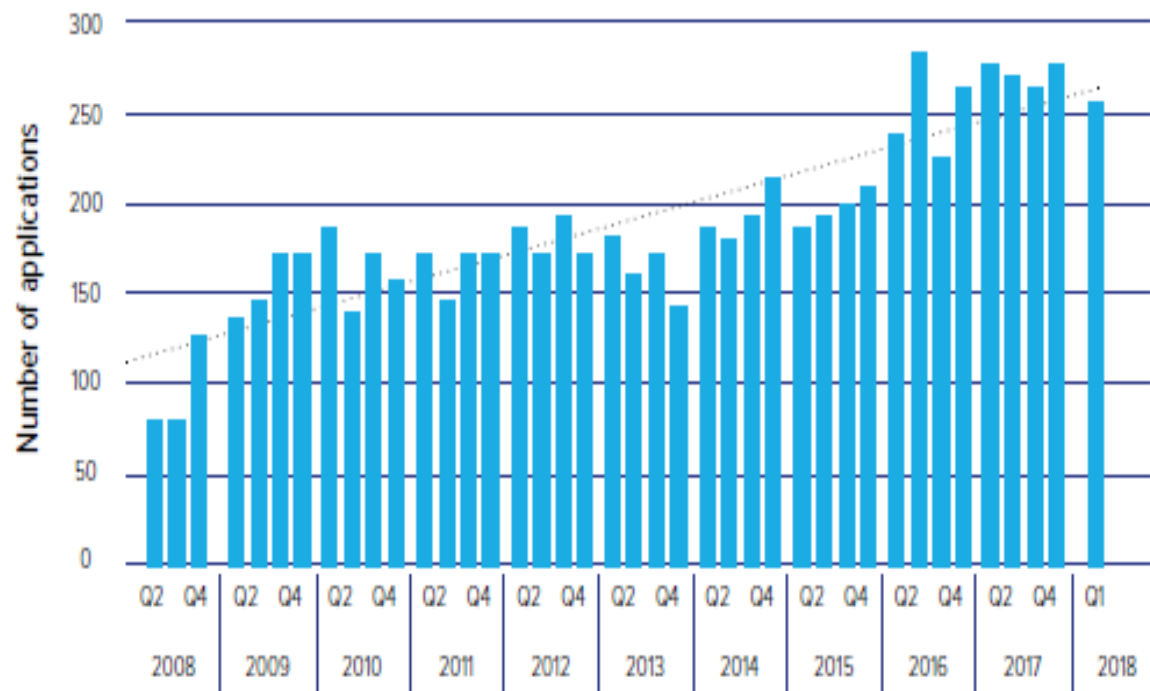
(source: DfE, SFR 50/2017, Table H1; ONS)



Graphs on this slide and the next are reproduced from: Thomas, C. The Care Crisis Review: Factors contributing to national increases in numbers of looked after children and applications for care orders. All CCR reports available at: <https://frg.org.uk/involving-families/reforming-law-and-practice/care-crisis-review>.

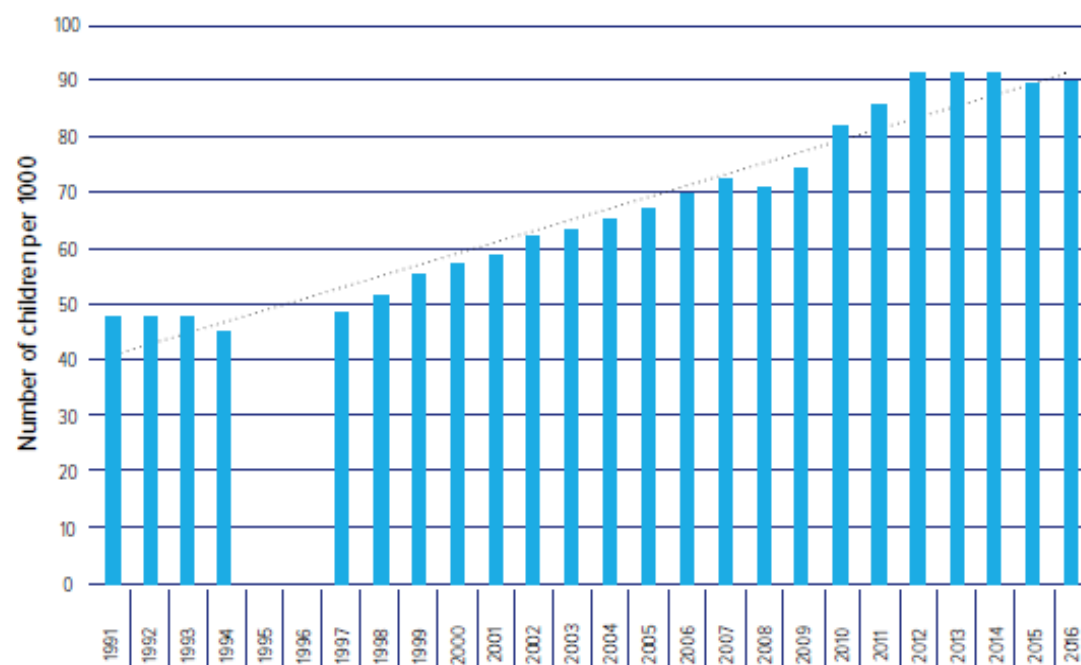
Public care applications in Wales

(source: Cafcass)



Number of looked after children per 10,000 children in Wales

(source: StatsWales: Children looked after at 31 March per 10,000 population; ONS)



Key messages across the Review

- Blame, shame, fear & frustration
- A complex picture: no single solution
- Consensus regarding:
 - Relationship building being at heart of good practice
 - The wider family and community being an untapped resources for some children.
- **The challenge:** to create conditions that allow **good** relationships to flourish.



Family survey results

817 family members.

Majority of kinship carers responding were grandparents.

Explore options early enough. Rushed decisions

Struggling to get funds for legal representation.

Felt unprepared for role as kinship carer.
Abandonment.

Absence of a sense of partnership.

“We supported our grandchild’s mother throughout and feel we helped in a small way to enable her to keep her baby but we did this despite the local authority, not because of. They never involved us in anyway and at times appeared confused about their own plans and processes”

The lack of clear process around special guardianship, lack of clear policy and procedures relating to viability assessments. Out (VA) was not shared with us but was lodged in court...before we were told of the outcome.



Review findings

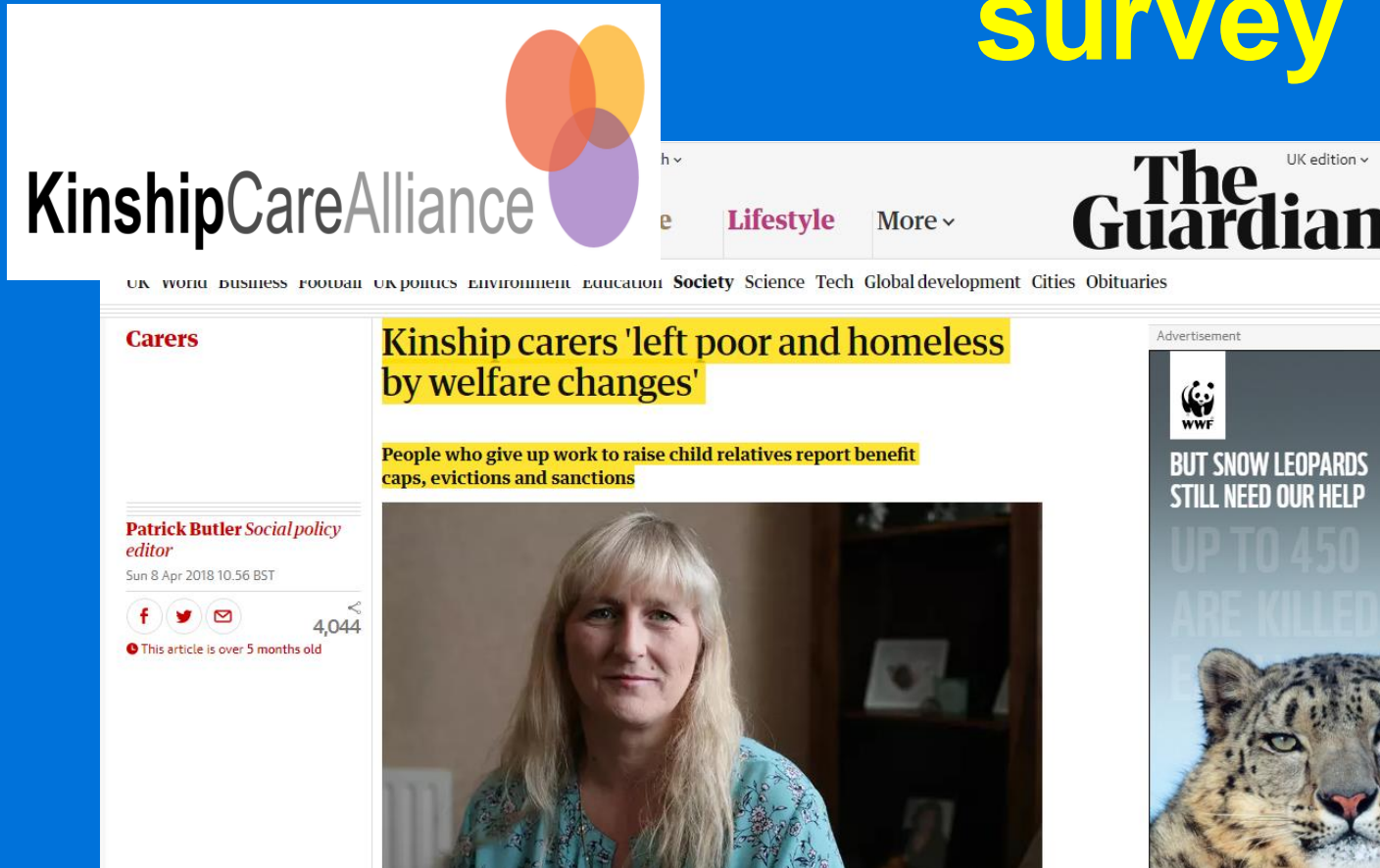
Partnership. Support a whole family approach – FGCs.

Strengthen F&F statutory guidance to reflect Review messages

LA renewed focus on developing, publishing & implementing.

Improving Outcomes for Children Framework explicit regarding importance of kinship care.

Kinship Care Alliance – welfare survey



The screenshot shows the top of a Guardian article. On the left is the KinshipCareAlliance logo, which consists of three overlapping circles in orange, purple, and yellow. The article title is "Kinship carers 'left poor and homeless by welfare changes'", with the first part highlighted in yellow. Below the title is a sub-headline: "People who give up work to raise child relatives report benefit caps, evictions and sanctions". The author is identified as Patrick Butler, Social policy editor, with a date of Sun 8 Apr 2018 10:56 BST. There are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Email, and a view count of 4,044. A note at the bottom left says "This article is over 5 months old". To the right of the article is a WWF advertisement featuring a snow leopard and the text "BUT SNOW LEOPARDS STILL NEED OUR HELP" and "UP TO 450 ARE KILLED". The Guardian logo and navigation menu are visible at the top of the page.

517 respondents

90% in England

37% single carers

Multiple financial hardships.

Has becoming a kinship carer caused you financial hardship?

Of 317 respondents, 94% (297) said it had caused financial hardship or disadvantage. Impact included: losing home; using a foodbank; getting into debt.

Losing work, harder to earn
Only 12% of survey respondents were working FT.

“Due to having given up two jobs to care for my granddaughter money is now tight”

“Can’t live on monthly pay, getting into more debt”

“I have used all my savings to live off, now they have gone, I am struggling to even feed us”