

## **All Party Parliamentary Group on Kinship Care**

### **Legal Aid Inquiry – Terms of Reference**

#### A) Aim/Purpose

The aims of this inquiry are:

- To bring a renewed focus on the issues kinship carers and potential kinship carers face in accessing legal advice and representation when navigating the family justice system, and the wider impact this has on the child welfare and family justice system.
- Update the evidence base on access to legal aid from kinship carers and practitioners working in the system.
- Inform the Ministry of Justice in their Covid recovery work.

#### B) Membership

Membership is open to all parliamentarians.

External organisations with particular expertise in kinship care and legal aid can join in an advisory capacity to inform the work of the APPG.

The APPG is chaired by Andrew Gwynne, MP for Denton and Reddish. The Group also has seven Vice Chairs.

#### C) Expectation of members of the APPG

Members are encouraged to attend the inquiry's oral evidence sessions and to share the inquiry's call for evidence with their constituents and wider networks.

#### D) Administrative arrangements

Family Rights Group provide the secretariat for the APPG and will service this inquiry. Notes from Group meetings and evidence sessions, and updates from evidence gathering, will be circulated to all interested Members and published on the Group's website.

#### E) Decision making

The APPG's secretariat will undertake analysis of the inquiry's evidence and any work required to write up the inquiry's findings. The secretariat will provide advice to Members. Final recommendations shall be made with agreement from all participating Members.

#### F) Wider Engagement

The APPG will engage widely with individuals and organisations who have experience and knowledge of kinship care and the family justice system. This will include, but not be limited to: individual kinship carers, legal practitioners, umbrella organisations representing legal practitioners, and the Local Government Association.