



First Contact Clinical

**Carers'**  
**Drug & Alcohol Network**  
Better & stronger together across Gateshead, South Tyneside & Sunderland

## Improving service responses to the needs of Kinship Carers and children in South of Tyne and Wear

*A peer led action research project*

**'Kinship carers'** are those who are bringing up children of their extended family or friends because they are unable to look after the children themselves.

Focusing on grandparents and children in **Gateshead and South Tyneside** who are in kinship care arrangements due to parental substance misuse or addiction, our research will help to develop needs led local Friends and Family Carer policies by asking...

- **What is the extent of grandparents caring for their grandchildren full time as a result of drug and alcohol misuse?**
- **Does the Family and Friends Care policy and Local Authority practice support them?**
- **What types of supports and services are needed?**
- **What good practice examples exist and where are the gaps?**

### **How can I get involved?**

- **Put us in touch with any kinship carers who you know**
- **Let us know about good practice you are aware of**
- **Spread the word about the research**
- **Come to events about the research findings in early 2013**

Contact Lindsay Henderson, CDAN Coordinator - Tel: 0191 4274711 or email [lindsayhenderson@firstcontactclinical.co.uk](mailto:lindsayhenderson@firstcontactclinical.co.uk)

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**Policy & Representation  
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