***IF YOU ARE A FULL TIME CARER (KINSHIP CARER) YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO:***

* WELFARE BENEFITS
* SMALL GRANTS
* HOLIDAYS
* Visit our website:   
  [www.grandparents-association.org.uk](http://www.grandparents-association.org.uk)  
  (Select - Help & Support - Welfare Benefits)

***FOR OTHER HELP, INFORMATION AND SUPPORT***

* Call our Helpline:   
   Monday – Friday 10am -4pm  
  **0845 4349585**
* Call our Welfare Benefits Service:   
  Tuesday 10am – 12pm  
   Wednesday 10am – 12pm  
   Thursday 11am – 1pm  
  **0844 3571033** or email  
  [wb@grandparents-association.org.uk](mailto:wb@grandparents-association.org.uk)
* Find a support group near you.Go to

[www.grandparents-association.org.uk](http://www.grandparents-association.org.uk)

Help & Support or phone 01279

428040 for further details.

***DID YOU KNOW?***

* Nearly 3.5 million people provide childcare for their grandchildren?
* The average age of grandparent childcarers is 62 – 63 years
* Grandparents provide between 6 and10.8 hours a week on average

***ARE YOU A GRANDPARENTCHILDCARER?***

* Need benefit advice to see what you may be entitled to?
* Need help with a small grant to replace a broken household item?
* Want to find out tips on everything from fitting car seats to discipline?
* Interested in meeting up with grandparents in a similar situation and giving your grandchildren the chance to play with lots of other children?
* Find out more about holiday childcare, days out, and much more?



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For a list of other organisations that can offer help. Ring 01279 428040 and ask for our signposting information called ‘**Help and Information’.**info@grandparents-association.org.uk

**SUPPORT FOR GRANDPARENTS CARING FOR THE CHILDREN OF PRISONERS**

*“You just don’t know how much you have helped me. My washing machine had broken and I was washing everything by hand for a young baby and myself.”****Grandparent Carer***

The Grandparents’ Association is committed to support grandparents who care for children whilst a parent is in prison and try to maintain contact and family ties.  
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**LEEDS OFFICE:** The Grandparents’ Association Third Floor 6-8 The Headrow, Leeds LS1 6PT  
**M:**07914787746**T:**0113 2446111**E:** laura.teahan@grandparents-association.org.uk  
**HEAD OFFICE TELEPHONE:** 01279 428040

**Grandparents tell us they are being asked to:**



* + **Care for children fulltime, whilst a parent is in prison. This can be long term or short term.**
  + **Bring the children into prison for visits.**
  + **Take on the care of children with physical, educational and psychological problems**
  + **Give up jobs and other commitments to take on this role  
    struggling financially to bring up their grandchildren**
  + **Many also say their own health and relationships are being affected by this role**

**For some:**

* + **Grandparents are being denied contact with their grandchildren when a parent is in prison.**

**MEET LAURA TEAHAN  
PRISON OUTREACH WORKER**  
My name is Laura Teahan and my role is to support grandparents who care for their grandchildren when a parent is in prison.  
I am also here to try to help maintain continued contact and family ties, within families when a member is in prison, and to establish strong links with Family Workers and Staff in and around Yorkshire.

**MY AIM IS TO:**

* Establish a referral system for professionals to signpost grandparents and carers to our services.
* Set up and signpost grandparents to support groups to put them in touch with others in a similar situation.
* Hold drop in surgeries on visiting days covering a range of issues.
* Provide welfare benefit information and advice including small grant support, when caring for a grandchild whilst the parent is in prison
* Provide information and support for legal issues and arrangements for care and contact
* Provide a range of courses for grandparents including first aid, I.T courses, parenting together and managing children’s behaviour
* Tools and books to assist telling the children when a parent is in prison

**We are very aware of the increased levels of care and commitment being undertaken by grandparents.**

*“You stepped in and supported me when I felt I had nowhere else to turn. I will be making sure from now one I tell as many people as possible about the Grandparents’ Association and about the excellent work that you do.”****Grandparent Childcarer***

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**DID YOU KNOW?** The Grandparents' Association is a national charity which supports all grandparents and their families and works with government, local authorities and campaigns with key charities to raise awareness of the needs of grandparents.