



## South Warwickshire Carers' Support Service

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#### "GUARDIAN ANGELS" TENDER WON BY SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE CARERS' SUPPORT SERVICE

*Guardian Angels* is a support group for family members (*Kinship Carers*) who are in the parenting role but are not actually the parent of the child/children for whom they care.

**Warwickshire** identified that more grandparents, aunts, uncles and older siblings are taking on responsibilities, normally associated with the parent's role often due to traumatic circumstances. This may be the death of a parent or both parents, mental illness, domestic abuse, imprisonment, drug abuse or the parent being very young.

**Warwickshire's** policy is to keep children, where possible, within the family and only in extreme cases into fostering.

*Guardian Angels* was created in recognition of the vastness of the task Kinship Carers take on and to offer an opportunity for them to meet others in a similar situation to chat, relax and socialise. The first meeting was held 12<sup>th</sup> October 2007 and has since been run by **WCC's Family Group Conferencing Team**.

Apart from the social side *Guardian Angels* can introduce what local services are available to offer advice and guidance, such as legal issues, benefits, counselling, Children's Services etc.

Previously, groups ran monthly and alternated between North Warwickshire, South Warwickshire and Rugby. **South Warwickshire Carers' Support Service** is prepared to increase the frequency of the groups to monthly in each of the five Warwickshire districts.

The new arrangements begin in June with two members of **SWCSS** staff team, **Caroline Haffner**, *Parent Carer Advisor* and **Tracey Wright**, *Parent Carer and Sessional Worker* facilitating at various venues throughout the county.

The first *Guardian Angels* groups to be held under the **SWCSS** banner will be:



Patron: Fiona Castle  
Charity Registration No: 1098357  
Company limited by guarantee number 4610367



**Leamington/Warwick- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009 – 9.15- 11.15**  
at  
**the Sydni Centre, The Cottage Square, Marloes Walk, Sydenham CV31 1PT**

**\*\*\***

**Rugby- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2009 – 9.15 – 11.15**  
at  
**The Childrens Centre, Boughton Lee Junior School, Wetherell Way,  
Brownsover CV21 1LT in the Meeting Room**

**\*\*\***

**Nuneaton and Bedworth – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009 - 9.15 -11.15**  
at  
**Abbey Children's Centre, Hatter's Space,  
Upper Abbey Street, Nuneaton CV11 5DN in the Cresh**

**Stratford District and North Warwickshire District groups** will be up and running in July.

A warm welcome and **Free** light refreshment will meet Kinship Carers who wish to attend any of the groups for support and advice.

For further information please contact **Caroline Haffner** at **South Warwickshire Carers Support Service** on **01926 485 486** or email: [caroline@swcss.org.uk](mailto:caroline@swcss.org.uk)