



Redcar & Cleveland Guidance for a referral to the SGO Team

Redcar and Cleveland SGO Team guidance on a referral in line with the Providing the Right Support to Meet a Child's Needs ([Threshold document](#))

Redcar & Cleveland SGO Team are committed to developing a package of support that is tailor-made to meet the needs of each Special Guardian and the children in their care.

The **Special Guardianship Team** are responsible for providing support, advice & information for families applying for an SGO or have an SGO granted.

We are responsible for providing emotional support for carers and children, advice and guidance for carers, and organising training, activities and events.

This guidance has been developed in line with the Providing the Right Support to Meet a Child's Needs ([Threshold document](#)) to provide clear information to professionals considering making a referral to the SGO Support Team, ensuring that families are given the right support at the right time.

It is important to stress at the outset that whenever there are concerns that a child may be suffering, or be at risk of suffering, significant harm, the Tees Local Safeguarding Children Boards' (LSCB) procedures must be followed. These procedures can be found on the internet at www.teescpp.org.uk

The SGO Team can provide support to families across all four of the levels of needs model either as a stand-alone service or working in partnership with other services.

Level 1 – Children whose needs are met by universal services.

- ◇ Families where a referral to a universal service may be required
- ◇ Support and guidance via groups, drop in services and informal telephone contact
- ◇ Families offered opportunities to seasonal events and activities
- ◇ Quarterly newsletter and inclusion on mailing list

Examples of support offered at Level 1:

A family have recently been granted an SGO and are wondering about any support groups in the local area, or activities that they may become involved in.



Level 2 – Children with additional needs which can be met from one other agency. *(Due to the provision of the support workers within the SGO team this level of need can be met in-house).*

All of the above and/or including the following:

- ◇ Emotional wellbeing support for children and young people through a range of interventions
- ◇ Advice and support offered to carers including emotional support and financial re/assessment
- ◇ Therapeutic training programmes that will address issues of attachment and child development
- ◇ Specialist support around identity and family relationships e.g. life story work, words and pictures
- ◇ Outreach support for children/young people to promote positive activities and engagement

Examples of support offered at Level 2:

A child/young person is struggling to come to terms with family dynamics and life experiences and may require some emotional support.

A carer has identified that they would like to attend a parenting programme to address the attachment needs of the child in their care.

Level 3 – Children with a range of additional needs that require a multi-agency response.

All of the above and/or including the following:

- ◇ If the child or young person is experiencing complex difficulties, an application to the ASF (Adoption Support Fund) may be explored.
- ◇ Referrals can be made to specialist external services if there is an identified need
- ◇ Involvement and support with multi-agency meetings
- ◇ Support offered to families to prevent placement breakdown

Examples of support offered at Level 3:

A child or young person that has experienced childhood trauma presenting with emotional or behavioural difficulties and requiring assessment for therapeutic intervention.



Level 4 - Children with complex/significant needs that require specialist or statutory intervention.

When a family are at this level of need there should already be an allocated social worker and the referral must come from social care.

All of the above and/or including the following:

- ◇ Work alongside the family's Social Worker to provide holistic support to the family
- ◇ Where carers are considering applying for an SGO we can become involved via the early notification system

Examples of support offered at Level 4:

A child has been placed with grandparents and it has been identified that an SGO may be appropriate. A referral would be made to the SGO Team.