



Could you share your life?

Information on becoming a Shared Lives Carer

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We want to recruit people to provide support and accommodation for adults with disabilities. You must be willing to work from and share your home and family life for anything from a few hours to days, weeks or several years.

What is Shared Lives?

Shared Lives Services are all about one household sharing their lives, families, home, interests, experience and skills with other people who need some help and support to live their lives to the full.

The person is welcomed as a member of the family and supported by a Shared Lives Carer who is checked, approved, trained and monitored by the Shared Lives Service.

Shared Lives focuses on what the person wants and needs to live their life and fulfil their ambitions. It is highly personalised and is delivered by local people in their own communities.

Becoming a Shared Lives Carer:

To become a Shared Lives Carer you need to have at least a year's experience in supporting:

- Adults with learning disabilities
- Adults with mental health conditions
- Older persons
- Adults with physical or sensory impairments
- Adults with dementia
- Adults with drug and alcohol problems

This experience could be from a range of different settings both professional and voluntary.

You will need to have the following qualities:

Flexibility, good sense of humour, patience, good understanding and listening skills.

We also expect our Carers to have excellent communication and record keeping skills; to work in partnership with the Shared Lives Service and other professionals; to be able to work on their own initiative; to maintain confidentiality and be committed to equal opportunities regardless of disability, race, culture or beliefs.

We welcome people who:

- Are single or living with a partner, including same sex relationships
- Are 18 years and over
- Are a home owner or a tenant – as long as there is enough space!

Services you Could Offer:

You could offer support during the daytime, evenings and/or weekends; some Shared Lives Carers offer long term accommodation and support to people whilst other carers offer overnight short breaks for days or weeks at a time. Some of our carers also offer daytime support on a 1:1 basis or in groups of up to three people.

The work could involve:

- Providing meaningful activities (either at home or in the community)
- Helping someone to develop their independent living skills, such as cooking, budgeting, using public transport, developing road safety skills.
- Assisting with personal care tasks

Assessment and Approval Process:

You will need to provide positive references from:

- A current or previous employer
- Two personal referees who have known you for at least two years
- Your GP – to ensure your health is suitable for this work
- Your Mortgage Lender or Landlord – to ensure that they are happy for you to do this kind of work in your home

We will also follow up an enhanced police (CRB) check on you and any other applicants. Local Authority checks will also be carried out on you and members of your household.

A detailed assessment will be undertaken to ensure that you have the appropriate skills, values and attitudes to become an approved Shared Lives Carer. The assessment process can take several months and approval is determined by the Shared Lives Panel.

Support for you:

You will have the reassurance of a named Shared Lives Worker to support as well as monitor you for the services you provide. This support will be given through visits, telephone calls and/or email. You will also have access to training and information events to further develop your skills and knowledge.

We will always try and carefully match the right person with you but you always have the right to say no and we will respect your decision.

Money matters:

You will be paid for the care and support you provide for people. You may be able to support up to three individuals at any one time dependent upon your space and your skills. Payments will vary according to the level of care and support individuals need. Please ask us for more information on current payment rates.

As a Shared Lives Carer you will be classed as being self-employed. ***We are unable to guarantee you regular work.*** The frequency of work is likely to be determined by your own flexibility, location, skills, experience and the type of services you are approved to provide.

The Shared Lives 'Tax Break':

Because this type of work is based from your own home it is likely that you will pay little or no tax on any income you earn as a Shared Lives Carer. Shared Lives Carers are officially recognised by Her Majesty's Custom and Revenue (HMRC).

Shared Lives Service

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