

**Information
for referrers**

Shared Lives



Coventry City Council

www.coventry.gov.uk/sharedlives

What is Shared Lives?

Shared Lives is a highly flexible form of supported living, which provides individuals with the opportunity to live in the community where they can develop their skills and confidence in a stable supported environment.

Shared Lives is:

- A person-centred service
- A service provided by families and individuals in local communities
- A service that enables someone to live an ordinary life at the heart of their community
- A service that values the person and what they have to offer
- A service that promotes independence and choice

Shared Lives Carers can support a maximum of three Service Users at any one time, subject to a Carer's Assessment and suitability of the property.

Shared Lives Carers are self employed and **cannot** employ any other care staff.

Service Users live in the same house as the Shared Lives Carer and are included in their lives and family/friendship networks. The house and all the amenities in the house are shared.

Frequently asked questions

Q. Is it a complicated process to access Shared Lives?

- A. The success of every placement depends on the success of the matching and introduction process. Introductions for a long term placement will take the time needed by the Service User to make an informed decision, but the Scheme will facilitate the

process once a referral is received. Success rates are very high once a placement is made.

Q. How do I make a referral?

- A. We prefer an informal phone call to discuss options before completion of referring paperwork by ringing the Shared Lives Scheme on 024 7678 5339.

Q. How does the Scheme decide who gets placed where?

- A. Each Shared Lives Carer can offer a certain level and range of support, and because of the close working relationship with the Shared Lives Worker and the very lengthy assessment and approval process for each Shared Lives Carer, we know what they can and can't offer. Each Shared Lives vacancy does not represent an "empty bed" but a specific person centred placement that can meet only a certain range of support needs. Placing someone who has higher support needs than can be given (as no staff can be employed) will lead to placement breakdown. The Shared Lives Scheme ensures that a clear and thorough matching process is followed.

Q. How can I be sure the person will get the ongoing support they need?

- A. The role of the Shared Lives Scheme is to continually support, guide and train Shared Lives Carers to include and empower the Service User, promote their independence and provide a stable supportive environment in which to develop their skills and abilities.

Shared Lives clearly sees Service Users as active participants of the service they receive.

Each placement is continuously monitored and supported by the Shared Lives Scheme. Shared Lives Workers complete

extensive annual reviews of both the placement and the Carer's skills and ongoing professional development.

Q. How are the placements funded?

- A. There are 3 levels of payment depending on the level of support required. All payments are made up as follows:-
- A payment from the council to the Carer for the care and support they provide. The Service User will probably be asked to contribute to this payment. If they have savings above a certain amount they may be asked to pay all of this.
 - A weekly payment for board (food) and utilities (gas, electricity etc.) paid by the Service User to the Carer using their benefits or from other income.
 - A weekly payment for accommodation; paid by the Service User to the Carer using their benefits or from other income.

Shared Lives are legally a community based form of supported living. Each Service User has a Licence Agreement, which entitles them to occupy a room in the house. All Service Users will receive their full benefit entitlement.

Q What do Service Users think about the people they share a home with?

- A. Feedback/Quotes taken from the Care Quality Commission Inspection reports:

“Everything is great”

“I am very happy in the placement”

“It's the best place I have ever lived”

“I have never been so happy”

“Everything is great, and I like it there”

What the Care Quality Commission (CQC) said about Coventry Shared Lives Scheme:

30th May 2012 – “The Coventry Shared Lives Scheme was meeting all the essential standards of quality and safety inspected”.

Comments from previous/current reports:

“Carers commented very favourably about the Scheme, and people in placements expressed their delight at being able to live in places where they were able to exercise choice and independence.”

“Carers commented on how the Scheme was supportive and accessible, providing training and information, as well as ensuring the well-being of people in placements, by regular monitoring”

“Carers spoke of the Scheme management and workers being responsive and helpful, with words such as ‘approachable’ ‘brilliant’ ‘good advice’ and ‘good support’ being used.”

One carer, new to the Placement Scheme said “the panel was pleasingly relaxed and informal.”

Carers spoke of finding recent training provided by the scheme as **‘really interesting and useful.’**

Carers spoke of the **‘brilliant’** support from the Placement Service, particularly the fast response if there were difficulties.

An outside professional spoken with felt that the placement service provided **‘a good, value for money service.’**

Quotes taken from the Care Quality Commission Inspection Reports available from www.cqc.org.uk

Services currently offered by Coventry Shared Lives Scheme

- Extended Stay Placements (formally Long-Term)
- Short-term Placements
- Short-stay (formally Respite)

Please ring us on 024 7678 5339 for more information.

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact:

Telephone: 024 7678 5339

e-mail: SharedLivesScheme@coventry.gov.uk