

**Information
for Carers**

Shared Lives



Coventry City Council

www.coventry.gov.uk/sharedlives

What is Shared Lives?

Shared Lives is a highly flexible form of supported living. The Shared Lives Scheme recruits Shared Lives Carers to provide 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 service provided in the Carers own home, (they may live alone, with their partner and/or other family members). They offer many of the important things only a real home can. They enable someone to live an ordinary life at the heart of their community. They value the person and promote their independence and choice. They provide people placed with support in day-to-day living, their own personal space, emotional as well as physical support and a sense of belonging and being part of the community.

Any adult who is eligible for a Community Care Assessment may be able to use the Shared Lives Scheme. They usually have either, a learning disability, mental health support needs, a physical disability and/or are an older adult.

What are the expectations of a Shared Lives Carer?

The Shared Lives Carer is a person who takes responsibility for the support provided, is self-employed, and receives a payment for each person living with them. Payments are made up of a contribution by the person placed and a further contribution from Community Services (previously known as Social Services).

It is expected that the Shared Lives Carer would ensure that any person placed with them is assisted, encouraged and supported to lead as independent a life as they are capable of.

This will include assistance to develop the confidence to exercise choices and to pursue activities for a meaningful and fulfilling life.

The Scheme promotes equality of opportunity for all and recruits people from a variety of backgrounds and cultures, to reflect the needs of people seeking Shared Lives homes.

How do I become a Shared Lives Carer?

Anyone wishing to become a Shared Lives Carer is assessed by the Shared Lives Scheme to ensure they have the right skills and knowledge. It is expected that an applicant will have some previous experience of caring, although it is more important they have a genuine wish to help others.

References and checks are carried out to ensure the person is of good character. A health and safety assessment will be completed on the intended Carers property.

After completing all the necessary assessments, the Shared Lives Worker prepares a report to be presented to a Shared Lives Panel for approval.

Once approved, the Shared Lives Scheme seeks to ensure that people looking for placements are matched as appropriately as possible to their needs and wishes, and the skills and experience for the Shared Lives Carer.

During the matching process there is ample opportunity, for both the Shared Lives Carer and the person seeking to be supported within a family environment, to meet and decide if the arrangements are going to be suitable.



**There is no
typical Carer
and there is
no typical
family!**

What on-going support is available?

The Shared Lives Scheme provides on-going training and support to the Carer in their role. The Carer is expected to work in co-operation with the Scheme and take advice on all aspects of care.

All Carers have an allocated Shared Lives Worker. Their job is to provide regular support and make monitoring visits, complete Carer Reviews and Placement Reviews to ensure that all is well. Carers can expect a minimum of four visits per year, but they can be more often if required.

A Social Worker from the team that made the placement will usually continue to support the person who has been placed. It is also usual to maintain contact with an independent advocate.

Please ring us on 024 7678 5339 for more information.

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

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