Shared Lives
Life is for sharing

Relatives have told us:

“I am very pleased with the Shared Lives Carers, they couldn’t be more helpful with me and my son. His communication and confidence is better, his living skills are much improved. I couldn’t ask for a nicer couple to care for my son.”

“I can’t think of any service improvements at all. If there was a gold medal for commitment they should be awarded.”

People using the service have said:

“I like to go for walks in the countryside which is nice with the dogs, I like going to the local café lunch.”

“We have a good laugh, I like going out to restaurants, takeaways. My bedroom is being decorated it looks really nice.”

“I go shopping, buy new clothes, clean my room, help make the dinner and save money.”

Shared Lives Carers have told us:

“Shared Lives has enriched our lives and also the lives of our families and those around us. Our household is always full of fun and laughter.”

“Our experience of Shared Lives can be summed up in one word – brilliant.”

“The Shared Lives Worker is very skilled, knowledgeable and professional. The relationship between us is built on mutual respect.”

“The Scheme is extremely helpful in anything I have queried or asked for, such as help and advice. If the Shared Lives Worker says they are going to do something they do, which in this hectic world is a rare commodity.”

Do you want to know more?

Have a chat to one of the Shared Lives team between 9am-5pm, by calling 01444 254463.

Or email the Scheme Manager Jo.Braine@westsussex.gov.uk

Visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/sharedlives to apply to become a Shared Lives Carer or to find more information about the scheme.

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Are you interested in being paid to provide a range of care and support using your own home and sharing your family life and interests? If so Shared Lives may well be an opportunity to consider!

Shared Lives is a service provided by individuals and families in local communities. Everyone has the right to choose where they live. For an adult who needs accommodation, care and support this may give them limited choices. This is how you and our Shared Lives Scheme can help.

The Shared Lives Scheme supports people with learning difficulties and people with dementia who have eligible care and support needs by matching them with approved and trained Shared Lives Carers.

What makes a good Shared Lives Carer?
You may have a background in health and social care or have cared for a friend or relative with care and support needs.

You promote people’s dignity, privacy and are respectful and of good character. You are considered to be a kind and caring person who enjoys spending time with people.

How do I become a Shared Lives Carer?
Please contact our Shared Lives Scheme and speak to one of our team. They are a group of professionals who are employed by West Sussex County Council. Our team recruits and assesses people in the local area to become Shared Lives Carers.

When you first contact us we will need some initial information and ask why you are interested. We’ll then arrange an informal meeting with you to discuss the process.

The process includes checking your knowledge, skills and experience. To become a Shared Lives Carer it can take up to 6-8 months; which includes several meetings with one of the Shared Lives Workers and carrying out some training and e-learning. A detailed report is completed by the Scheme and presented to an independent panel for approval. The Shared Lives Worker will support you through the whole process and attend the panel meeting with you too.

How are Shared Lives Carers paid?
There are a range of services that can be offered through Shared Lives.

An individual can be matched up with a Shared Lives Carer on a long-term basis, either by spending the day with them or having short breaks and respite, which provides a break for the person who normally cares for them.

As a Shared Lives Carer you would be self-employed and responsible for your own tax. You would also need to provide an agreed level of affordable public liability insurance. You can organise the public liability insurance through the National Shared Lives Scheme known as Shared Lives Plus – www.sharedlivesplus.org.uk

What are the benefits?
- You’ll be making a real difference to people’s lives.
- You can have a great work life balance using your own home.
- It fits into your own daily lives.
- You can support up to three people depending on the type of accommodation you have.
- You can earn good money and benefit from significant tax concessions.

www.westsussex.gov.uk/sharedlives