

Shared lives

Adults' Services

Who are we?

We are the West Sussex County Council Shared Lives Scheme. We manage a service that recruits, assesses, trains, monitors and supports approved Shared Lives Carers to provide a range of accommodation, care and support using their own home to share their lives with individuals who need care and support.

How does the service work?

The Shared Lives Scheme is registered, regulated and inspected with the Care Quality Commission and is able to provide 'personal care'.

Shared Lives Carers are approved members of the Shared Lives Scheme and offer a range of services including:

- Short-breaks or short-term accommodation with care and support.
- Long-term accommodation with care and support.
- Day time support known as Day Share (using the Shared Lives Carer's home as a base and spending time in the community).

If a person lives in a Shared Lives Carer's own home on a long or short-term basis, they would have the privacy of their own room. They would share the day-to-day lives of the Shared Lives Carer and their families and join in community life. They would be supported and encouraged to make their own choices and to live as independently and safely as possible.

The Shared Lives Carer will own or rent their own property and are paid for their care, support, accommodation, utilities and food.

Role of the Shared Lives Carer

Shared Lives Carers are from all walks of life. Some have professional qualifications and a background of working within a health and social care setting, but there are Shared Lives Carers who also have personal experience that they can bring to the role.

Shared Lives Carers are responsible for balancing the needs and lifestyles of everyone in their household. The Shared Lives Carer will understand and respect confidentiality and the rights to privacy of the people they support.

Shared Lives Carers will build positive relationships with the people they are matched with and the important people in their lives. They will work together to support people to be independent in all aspects of day-to-day life.

The Shared Lives Carers will provide a healthy and safe home. They will support people to maintain and develop their independence safely, support people to access community services and facilities, and follow relevant policies and procedures. They will also undertake and maintain the required learning and development needed to be a Carer.

Shared Lives Carers will work in partnership with the Shared Lives Scheme by meeting regularly with the Shared Lives worker, other professionals and people involved within the person's life.

Role of the Shared Lives Scheme

The Shared Lives Scheme is a team of qualified staff who are employed by West Sussex County Council and are responsible for recruiting, assessing, training, monitoring and supporting the self-employed Shared Lives Carers. The Shared Lives Carers are provided with regular supervision, advice, guidance and are regularly monitored and reviewed.

If you need this information in another format, for example, large print, easy read or on audio CD, please contact our Adults' CarePoint – see details on the last page.

What people have said about the service

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 and it looks really nice".

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

"I enjoy going to the pub with my Shared Lives Carers, meeting new people and watching and listening to live bands".

Relatives of people who use our service 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".

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".

Contact us

Have a chat to one of the Shared Lives Team between 9am–5pm, by calling 0330 22 25700.

Call using Relay UK: 18001 0330 22 25700 (from a textphone or the NGT Lite app downloaded onto a computer, tablet or smartphone).

Or email the Registered Manager SharedLives.DutyWorker@westsussex.gov.uk.

Life is for sharing – could you share yours?

We are recruiting paid carers to join our Shared Lives Scheme and support people living with dementia or learning difficulties.

Please get in touch and find out more on [the Shared Lives page](#) on the West Sussex County Council website or call 0330 22 25700 between 9am–5pm Monday to Friday, for a chat with a member of the Shared Lives Team.