

Our lives get better when they're shared

Could you share your home with an adult who needs support to live a healthy, safe and fulfilling life within their own community?

Shared Lives is a care and support service for people who want to live independently in their local area with the support of a family and community network.

Shared Lives carers help people with everyday activities like cooking, attending medical appointments, socialising or taking part in activities and hobbies.

We need more Shared Lives carers in Solihull so we can support people with learning or physical disabilities or autism, older people and people with mental ill health. Shared Lives carers may also support young adults who have been in foster care.

We match people based on interests, lifestyles, and personalities ensuring that living with a Shared Lives carer truly feels like home. The outcomes are extraordinary.



About Shared Lives Solihull

Shared Lives Solihull is delivered by Shared Lives Birmingham, part of Birmingham City Council. This includes the enquiry, training and approval process for Solihull, as well as ongoing support for approved Shared Lives Solihull carers.

For more information:

Visit: www.solihull.gov.uk/sharedlives

Email: sharedlives@birmingham.gov.uk

Call: 0121 464 3164



Types of Shared Lives care

Shared Lives currently offers two different models of care – long-term and short-term (also known as respite).

Depending on your circumstances, one of these options may appeal more than the other.

Long-term

Welcome someone into your family, using the spare bedroom in your home.

The chance to offer someone a full and independent life in the community.



Short-term/respite

Welcome someone into the family around your availability, using your spare bedroom.

The chance to give full-time family carers a break, as well as continuing to promote independence in a family environment.



Useful information

Self-employed perks

You can start your Shared Lives career with short-term or respite care. It doesn't have to be long-term, but it can be. You'll witness the amazing difference you make in someone's life! Over 10,000 Shared Lives carers across the UK share their homes with those in need. By supporting someone from home, you'll earn between £498 and £608* a week with tax relief, training, regular breaks, and access to a UK Carer Support Network.

What skills do I need?

Shared Lives focuses on helping individuals gain confidence, learn new skills, and thrive. Carers are typically practical, sociable, patient and have a good sense of humour. Whether or not you've worked in a caring profession before, we're looking for people who can use their skills to make a positive impact on others.

Who could I share with?

Everybody is unique, and we ensure that we match people based on their personalities and the level of care required. Shared Lives could be the correct route for many including those living with mental ill health, learning or physical disabilities, an older person living with dementia, or a young adult moving on from foster care.

Support for you

As your local Shared Lives scheme we provide training, support, a dedicated support worker, and a fee with tax benefits. If someone lives with you long-term, you'll also receive annual respite. As a self-employed Shared Lives carer, you can join Shared Lives Plus, the UK membership charity for shared living, offering legal and financial advice, tailored insurance, and high street discounts. We are proud members of Shared Lives Plus.

Next steps

If you're interested in becoming a Shared Lives carer, getting more information couldn't be easier. Take a look at the journey starting with your first point of contact.

Step 1: Call or email the Shared Lives Team for an application form. Simply complete and return to the Shared Lives Team.

Step 2: Visit from Shared Lives Officer in your home. This will give you a chance to ask more questions, as well as assess your home suitability.

Step 3: If suitable and happy, the assessment process begins. This will also include completing Right to Work checks.

Step 4: Once checks are done, you will be invited to attend panel for approval. You will be supported by a Shared Lives Officer who will attend with you.

Step 5: Once you are approved, the matching process will start. You will have multiple visits to get to know the person you will be supporting and to make sure this is the best match for all.

Step 6: Start your Shared Lives journey. Welcome to the team.



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