

## The matching process

Once you are approved as a Shared Lives carer we will use the information from your assessment to match you with a suitable person.



### We will consider:

- the needs, wishes and aspirations of the person seeking a placement
- the skills, knowledge and experience of the Shared Lives carer
- common interests shared by both the carer and person seeking a placement
- the location of the Shared Lives carer's home and the type of accommodation on offer
- managing any risks associated with the placement
- the cultures and/or faiths of the person and the Shared Lives carer.

When a potential match has been identified we can arrange an introduction meeting to enable you to get to know the person coming to your home. This introduction can include an overnight stay to prepare you both if you're considering either a short break or long term placement. You can pull out at any stage of the process if you don't think being a Shared Lives carer is right for you.

## Setting up a placement

When a Shared Lives placement is set up a Partnership Agreement outlining roles and responsibilities is agreed by all involved. You will be supported and visited regularly by your Shared Lives worker during this time. Every year you will have a Carer Review when you can let us know how the previous year has gone and if there is anything we can do to improve the placement, as well as identify any training that may be needed.

If you would like any more information about becoming a Shared Lives Carer, please call us on **0151 443 2060**.



# Becoming a Shared Lives Carer

# All you need to know about becoming a Shared Lives carer

As a Shared Lives carer you can support up to three people in your home, providing long term support or short breaks.

You will be self-employed, responsible for paying tax directly to HMRC. However there are tax breaks available for Shared Lives carers.

Shared Lives carers are not paid by the hour and do not work to a fixed schedule, but are paid an agreed daily or weekly rate. This can include a payment from the service user and a Housing Benefit rent contribution. The assessment process can take up to 3-4 months to complete.

## The assessment process

### These are the simple steps to becoming a Shared Lives carer

- Complete an application form.
- We will then take up two written character references from people who have known you at least two years. We will also take a reference from your last employer and check you are entitled to work in the UK. If you have previously worked in social care you need to tell us why you left your job.
- We will carry out a criminal record check and other required safeguarding checks.



### We will also need to check:

- proof of identity, including a recent photograph
- written confirmation from your GP that you are physically and mentally fit to carry out your role
- confirmation from your landlord or mortgage lender that you're not in arrears and have permission to provide a Shared Lives arrangement at your address.
- You don't need to drive to be a Shared Lives carer, but if you'll be using your car during the placement we'll need to check your driving licence, and motoring documents.

### We will then have a chat with you about:

- your background, home, family and community links
- your previous experiences, education and employment, including reasons for any gaps in your working history. This will include your knowledge and skills relevant to Shared Lives.
- the kind of care and/or support you are able to offer.

This information will be presented in a report to an independent panel who will consider your application to become a Shared Lives carer. You will receive a copy of the final report. You will also need to complete a programme of induction training before your application is approved.

