



Shared Lives Case Study

My name is David. I have been living with my Shared Lives Carers for the last 18 years, before that I lived with my Mum but the time was right for me to move out.

I am really happy and I have changed a lot since I went to live with my carers.

I used to be a very quiet nervous person. I did not go out on my own. I was not very independent and I was not very good at taking care of myself. I couldn't manage my own money.

How my life has changed!

Now I have a great life and I have lots of hobbies and interests that I get support with. I am really interested in steam trains and when I was on holiday with my Shared Lives Carers we went on the Somerset Steam Railway. I also love history and have been to Buckingham Palace.

We have been on some really good holidays such as Center Parcs, Butlins and on a Mediterranean cruise.

I use the bus on my own now and I like to help out, so I have taken on the job of buying the bread and milk we need. I feel good that I can do this.

I go to college and I have a volunteer placement at Bedford Library. One of my jobs is preparing new books to go out on the library shelves.

Shared Lives has given me the chance to live my life as I choose - with the right amount of support for me. I feel part of the family and that is very important to me.

Would you like to know more?

If you would like further copies, a large-print copy or information about us and our services, please telephone or write to us at our address below.

Për Informacion

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Informacja

برای اطلاع

Za Informacije

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Shared Lives Bedford

A Positive Lifestyle Choice

Are you looking for a life changing job you can do in your own home?

Are you looking to help 'Make a positive difference' to another person's life as well as enhancing your own?

What is Shared Lives?

Shared Lives is a scheme which links up adults with learning disabilities with families. This can be for short community access session, a short respite break or a long term placement.

Shared Lives Bedford is looking for people to provide a family environment which can help someone who needs extra support to get the best out of life.

Shared lives will help service users be 'matched' to the right carer, considering both parties' likes, hobbies and interests. The support is very individual and person centred. Service users get to meet the carers and if the service user and carer are happy the support can start. Carers can support to help an individual gain independence skills, learn new skills and try new activities,

The scheme can support anyone aged 16 years or over who has a learning disability and lives within Bedford Borough.



Who can become a Shared Lives Carer?

All kinds of people can become approved Shared Lives carers: couples, singles (with or without children), young or not so young, home owners or tenants.

The qualities we are looking for is a desire to support people who require some extra help to become as independent as possible within a family environment and to fulfil some life goals which may not be fulfilled within a different accommodation setting.

What about money?

An approved Shared Lives carer can support up to 3 adults at a time (dependent upon suitability of accommodation). There are significant tax concessions for approved carers. The carers receive a payment from the local authority, together with a contribution from the service users.

Shared Lives carers are NOT employed by Bedford Borough Council, they are classed as self-employed and therefore responsible for making their own National Insurance and tax payments.

There is a requirement for all approved Shared Lives Carers to hold suitable public liability insurance, this is easily available once you become a member of the national organisation Shared Lives Plus.

What does the Shared Lives scheme need to know about people who want to be a carer?

The recruitments and selection of carers understandably is an in-depth process, involving a detailed assessment, enhanced DBS check and the checking of references, health declaration and mortgage lender/landlord declaration.

Carers are also expected to participate in pre-assessment, then ongoing training which is provided free of charge in line with the Care Certificate standards, as well as other activities relevant to the role of Shared Lives carer such as attending Shared Lives events and monitoring meetings.

What support will I get from Shared Lives Bedford?

To help you succeed as a Shared Lives Carer, we will offer:

- Induction and training to be a Shared Lives carer
- Careful and successful matching of the person with you and your family
- Ongoing support from the Shared Lives officers who will meet you regularly and support you and the person being placed with you
- Network meetings/events with other Shared Lives carers to provide support
- Access to support and guidance from 'Shared Lives Plus' The national organisation for Shared Lives
- Liaison, access and meeting (when required) with other professionals such as social workers, community nurses and other relevant professionals

Would you like to find out more?

If you would like further information about becoming a carer for the Shared Lives scheme, or you know someone who could benefit from using the Shared Lives scheme then please contact us using the details provided on the back of this leaflet.

Anyone can become a Shared Lives carer, no qualifications in Health and Social Care are required as we provide training and support is available from the scheme. Being a caring, compassionate individual is the main requirement.