

## What is Shared Lives?

Shared Lives is an alternative to home care and care homes for adults with disabilities and older people. Individuals move in with or regularly visit their Shared Lives carer and together they share family and community life.

Shared Lives offers lots of benefit for individuals, with people reporting that they feel more valued, settled and have a real sense of belonging.

Being a Shared Lives Carer is a paid role and here in Leicestershire we are looking to expand our amazing team of Shared Lives Carers to provide a greater range of placements.

We are looking for interested applicants from diverse backgrounds to become approved Shared Lives Carers.

**“My planned respite gives me the stability and support I need and my Shared Lives Carer is very good at identifying my needs each time I stay with her.”**

D who has been using the Shared Lives Service since 2016

You need to be over 18 years old and whilst previous paid experience in a caring role is not necessary, a desire to support vulnerable adults to maintain and develop their independence and maximise their life experiences is essential.

If you think you have what it takes to change a life and are looking for a flexible, challenging and hugely rewarding role, we'd love to hear from you.

**“People are supported and treated with dignity and respect; and involved as partners in their care.”**

Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection report March 2019



## Ready to take the next step?

If you would like to find out more, or think that Shared Lives is for you then please get in touch

[sharedlives@leics.gov.uk](mailto:sharedlives@leics.gov.uk) or

call **0116 305 8133** or

visit [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/shared-lives-service](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/shared-lives-service)

## Change a life from your own home as a Leicestershire Shared Lives Carer



If you...

- have a passion to help others
- want to make a real difference
- have a spare room and live in Leicestershire

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## What are the benefits of being a Shared Lives carer?

We offer flexible ways of working that fit around you. Some Shared Lives carers offer long term accommodation and support, whilst others offer short breaks, where people stay for a few days or weeks at a time.

You are paid based on the type of service you are providing, the number of people you are supporting, and the level of support a person needs.

Shared Lives carers can offer support for up to three people at a time, giving the option for 1:1 time as well as group sessions.

You will be classed as self-employed as a Shared Lives Carer, so you are responsible for making your own National Insurance and tax payments. There are however, significant tax concessions for approved carers.

There is also a requirement for all approved Shared Lives carers to hold suitable public liability insurance, which is available through membership of the national umbrella organisation known as Shared Lives Plus.

## What does the Shared Lives Service need to know about its approved Shared Lives carers?

Our carers are the heart of our service, so the recruitment and selection of new carers is an in depth process which includes a detailed assessment and an enhanced DBS check.

Carers are expected to participate in pre-assessment and ongoing training as well as other activities relevant to the role of a Shared Lives carer.

From the moment you decide to become a Leicestershire Shared Lives carer we will offer:

- Induction and training to become a Shared Lives carer
  - A dedicated support worker to guide you through the process, as well as ongoing support
  - Careful matching of clients with you (and your family)
  - Access to training and learning materials to enable you to develop as a carer.
- Our carers have access to advice and support 24/7 from the Shared Lives team and our out of hours service.

## What does a Shared Lives carer do?

As a Shared Lives carer your role involves supporting adults with eligible social care needs, to maintain or improve their current levels of independence, or to support them in developing new skills and experiences. This may include building their confidence in a variety of areas.

Providing and supporting activities, both at home or out and about is key to the role, along with socialising and interacting with other people and service users.

**If you can answer yes to any of the following, becoming a Shared Lives carer could be the ideal career for you.**

- I want to make a real difference to someone's life
- I have some experience in care
- I have a spare bedroom
- I live in Leicestershire

## Carer case study

Elaine offers day services, short breaks and currently has an individual living with her on a longer-term basis.

“A woman I used to work with told me about Shared Lives, she is a Shared Lives Carer herself and it instantly appealed to me.

Despite the obvious feel-good factor, you get from helping someone, there are loads of other perks. I get to be my own boss, I'm not stuck in an office with a nine-to-five job, I can manage my time given how flexible I can be, and I get to meet so many different people.

It's not always easy, don't get me wrong. It's hard to please everyone, and that can be tricky, but there are challenges in every job, and the support I receive from the team is excellent – they are always there if I need them. They are amazing, I can't praise them enough.

My advice for anyone who is thinking about Shared Lives caring would be to keep an open mind, and not to be put off by the paperwork, I am so glad I decided to go for it, and I haven't looked back since. Teaching people new skills; helping them become more independent; watching them discover and reach their true potential is just amazing. You won't get that feeling in an office.

