Becoming a Shared Lives carer

Shared Lives
Better Lives

Leicester City Council
The Shared Lives Service offers people quality care and support within a family home.

The service is for people with disabilities, dementia and mental health problems. Our carers can provide respite, long-term placements, short-stay or day services.

Shared Lives carers come from all backgrounds and live in all types of homes. They share their home and their lives offering people a chance to live an ordinary domestic life in the same kind of home as others in the local community.

The work involved will depend upon the person who is being supported. Shared Lives carers could be helping people to develop practical skills, encouraging social contact, building confidence and offering emotional support.

If you have a genuine interest in welcoming someone into your home and providing care and support then this could be the role for you.

What do you need to become a carer?

- Be over 18 with some experience in care work, either paid or voluntary work, or caring for a family member.

- Be able to read and write so you can support service users.

- Good at communicating and working with people.

- A willingness and understanding sufficient to assist people, some of whom may have difficulties in communicating with others.

- A willingness to learn new skills and the ability to work on your own.

- Patience, imagination and flexibility.

- A comfortable and stable home for people to live in or visit. You don’t need to own your home, but if you rent you’ll need permission from your landlord.
As a Shared Lives carer you can expect:

• On-going advice and support from a Shared Lives worker and regular meetings with other carers.

• Training and learning opportunities. Our training programme includes safeguarding adults, mental capacity, food hygiene, first aid, medication and safer caring. You’ll also have access to Leicester City Council training courses if you need specific training like moving and handling.

• A financial allowance depending on the care you provide. Shared Lives carers are self-employed so you would need to make arrangements for tax and national insurance.

• You will not be expected to care for someone you do not feel is suitable, or whose needs are more than you can cope with. We’ll help match you with the right person.

How do you become a Shared Lives carer?

If you’re interested in becoming a Shared Lives carer please contact the Shared Lives team for more information and to start the application process.

You’ll need to complete an application form and we’ll carry out a series of checks. These will include employer and personal references, a disclosure barring scheme (DBS) check and a medical check with your GP.

We want to make sure the Shared Lives service is right for both our carers and the people who use it. We’ll carry out a full assessment with you and once this is complete an independent panel will decide if your application can be approved.

Once approved you’ll be able to offer placements.
Gill Evans is a Shared Lives carer and looks after two adults with learning difficulties, David and Tracey.

“I’ve been a Shared Lives carer for 15 years now and my motto is ‘treat others as you’d wish to be treated’. I get so much pleasure from my role and it’s really satisfying to hear someone say ‘thank you’. David and Tracey have come on leaps and bounds since they’ve been with me. It’s really rewarding to see someone look much better and happier since I’ve been caring for them.”

Carol Wright is a Shared Lives carer. She provides day placements and has three people living with her permanently.

“Being a Shared Lives carer is thoroughly rewarding. I support people to help them do things that so many of us take for granted and without exception the people who have lived with me have become more independent.”

“The Shared Lives team have a real understanding of the challenges of caring for vulnerable adults and know how to support you. They are very good at matching you with people who will be compatible with everyone who lives in your home and they offer excellent training to equip you with the skills and tools you need to feel confident in your abilities as a carer.”

Contact the Shared Lives Service
Call: 0116 221 1370
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