

# Shared Lives

**A guide for the people we support.**

## Address

Thicketford Centre  
Thicketford Road  
Bolton  
BL2 2LW

## Telephone number

01204 331111

## Registered Manager

**Karen Crompton**



## What is Shared Lives?

Shared Lives is when families or individuals open up their homes to support and care for adults with a variety of needs. These include those with learning disabilities, Autism, mental health, older adults and young people transitioning to adulthood.

Our Shared Lives service is a flexible and unique arrangement that meets the person's individual needs. It helps people keep their independence and live as active and full a life as possible.

Joining the Shared Lives service is often a turning point in people's lives and helps them gain important life skills so they can thrive. For some it could be the first time they connect with their community, cook a meal, go out with friends or go on holiday.

Some people move in with their Shared Lives carer, others just visit in the day and some combine day and overnight visits.

There are lots of different kinds of Shared Lives carers. Some are couples and some are single people. Some have children. some provide support to more than one person.

Shared Lives offers both short and long term care. A short break is time apart from your family or carer. This can be an overnight stay, a weekend or longer. It allows family carers to have a caring break and a short break also gives the person using the service new experiences and opportunities while they stay with a Shared Lives carer.

A long term care option is when a person lives with an approved carer in the carer's home. They become part of the carer's household and take part in all aspects of family life. This works because the person is matched to a carer who is trained to provide the care and support, they need. Through the Shared Lives scheme, a person can live with another family, a couple or a single person in their home. Carers come from a range of different backgrounds.

## How to access the service

You will be referred to the Shared Lives service by social care.

## Our pledge to you

We will

- Match you with a carer who shares your likes, hobbies and the kinds of activities you like to do.
- Ensure that you are well looked after in your Shared Lives home. Your health, safety and security is our priority.
- You will have your own bedroom and your family and friends can visit you.
- Ensure you get the support you need to do the things you want to do.
- Ensure your carers respect you and support you to make choices so that you remain in control of your own life.



- Ensure that your carer supports you and helps you develop your skills, independence, social life and confidence.
- Listen to you and encourage you to share your views. You, or a member of the family or theirs can ask for a review of all or any aspect of your care, at any time and can influence the kind of care you receive.

## **In return**

We ask that.

- You respect your Shared Lives Carer and their family.

## **Your person centred care**

All our Shared Lives Carers go through an enhanced DBS check and are given training to allow them to meet the regulating bodies standards.

## **Medication**

If you need to take any medication your Shared Lives Carer can help you with this. They will receive training from Bolton Cares on how to do this safely and correctly.

## **Managing your money**

Your Shared Lives carer will assist you with your daily money if you wish.

Susan Schofield and your Shared Lives Co-ordinator can also offer assistance and guidance around benefits and savings.

## **Health and Safety**

You have the freedom to make your own choices, but we must make sure that you are safe, and we will examine any risks to your safety and well-being by undertaking a risk assessment of your Shared Lives home.

We want you to tell us your thoughts and ideas when we carry out the risk assessment. We will tell you about the health and safety precautions that have been agreed to keep you safe.

