

# West Berkshire Shared Lives Service User Guide - Easy Read



## What is the Shared Lives Scheme?



The Shared Lives Scheme is about people sharing family life with a Shared Lives Carer in the Carer's family home. The Shared Lives Carer offers care, support and the chance to become part of their family life. Shared Lives is a social care service.



This could be for:

- A few hours in the day
- Overnight
- A weekend or a short break
- Long term placements

## Who can use the Shared Lives Scheme?



People over 18 with; dementia, a learning disability, autism, asperger's syndrome, a physical disability, mental health difficulties other health or sensory disability and older people can use the service.



You will have a needs assessment. This is where a social care worker will ask questions about you and the support you need.



Your social care worker will be employed by West Berkshire Council and they will work with the Shared Lives worker to help arrange a service for you.

## Shared Lives Carers



Some Carers Live alone, some carers live with a partner, and some live with their family.



All of our Shared Lives Carers have been trained with the skills to support you.



All of our Shared Lives Carers have had police checks.

## Finding the right Shared Lives Carer Family for you



We will tell you about the Shared Lives Carers that you could meet.



We will try and find the right Shared Lives Carer to suit you.



You will be able to meet the Carers, see their home and meet their families.

## Service Users Placement Plan



We will help you fill out a placement plan to tell the carer all about you.



Your placement plan will say what help or support you need to look after yourself.



Your placement plan will say what help or support you need to do the things you want to.

## Risk



We work with you to keep risks low in your placement.



We will help you be as independent as possible and try new things.



We try to manage and reduce risks to keep everyone safe and happy.

## Keeping your information private



Sometimes we may share your information with other professionals.



We will never tell anyone who doesn't work for West Berkshire Shared Lives anything about you without your permission, unless we really have to.

## Review Meetings



We will review how things are going and have meetings with you and your carers.





We will ask you if you are happy.



We will ask your carers if they are happy.



We will ask if anything needs to change.

## In your placement



You will be treated with respect.



You will be treated like a member of the family.



You must respect the Carers and their family.

## Placement Agreement



You will have a placement agreement.



The agreement will show what everyone will do.

## If you live with the Carer



You will have your own room and you can put your own things in it.



Your friends and family can visit you.



You can go and see your friends and family.



Your carers will be happy to go out with you to do the things that you like.

## How is the Shared Lives Scheme paid for?



West Berkshire Council pay for part of the cost of your placement. Your Carers will get money for the support they give you from West Berkshire Council.



If you live with the Carer full time, you will also give some money to help pay for where you live. The amount will depend on your financial circumstances.

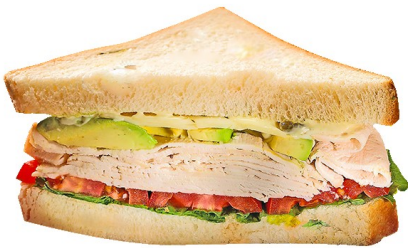


This may come out of your benefits or savings.



We will tell you how much you will have to pay when you are assessed.

## Activities



If you stay with a Carer on respite or have day support, you may be asked to:

- Buy lunch
- Pay petrol
- Pay parking
- Pay for activities or entrance.



## Your Carers can help you with things like



Managing your money



Tasks around the house



Making a phone call



Personal care



Life Skills

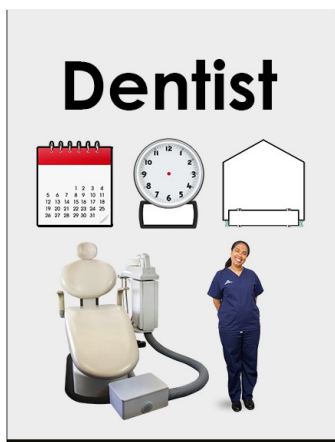


Getting dressed





Taking your medicine or tablets



Going to appointments

## CQC



CQC stands for the Care Quality Commission. They make sure we:

- Give you the care, support and treatment that is right for you.
- Treat you with respect
- Only treat or care for you if you agree or someone else who speaks on your behalf can agree.
- Give you safe care and



treatment.

- Make sure you have enough to eat and drink.
- Look after buildings and equipment properly.
- Deal with complaints properly.
- Only have staff who can do their job properly.
- Say sorry, tell you what happened if something goes wrong and give you support.
- Put up a sign that shows our CQC rating where you can see it.

The CQC check our service, talk to people and look at our records.



The reports are put on their website  
[www.cqc.org.uk](http://www.cqc.org.uk)

## Listening to you



If you have a problem or any questions, don't like something or would like a different carer, you can talk to the Shared Lives team.

## How to contact us:



WBC Shared Lives Scheme  
The Phoenix Resource Centre  
Newtown Road  
Berkshire  
RG14 7EB



Telephone 01635 520173 and ask for Shared Lives



Email:  
sharedlives@westberks.gov.uk

## Complaints



If you would like to make a complaint then please contact:

Alison Lewthwaite  
Adult Complaints and Public  
Liaison Manager  
West Berkshire Council  
Market Street  
Newbury RG14 5LD  
Tel: 01635 503391

Email: [complaintsadultsocialcare@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:complaintsadultsocialcare@westberks.gov.uk)