

What are our carers like?

Our carers come from all walks of life. Some people have had experience caring for others in the past., maybe as part of their career. Some have grown up children who've left home, some have large families who help to care, others live on their own with the person they support.

First and foremost our carers are people who are committed to improving the lives of others. People who are caring and willing to go that little bit further to make a difference to someone else's life. Our carers don't have to have any previous experience of care, they just have to be keen to learn and take part in our training programme. This programme will ensure they are specially equipped to support the person they are sharing their life with.

Shared Lives carers receive a support fee for their time. The amount they receive varies according to the individual support needs of the person they are caring for. Service users also pay a set amount towards the family food budget and household bills and in long term placements they are helped to manage their own tenancy and to pay rent, usually through partial or full housing benefit.

We're a member of

SharedLivesPlus
THE UK NETWORK FOR SMALL COMMUNITY SERVICES



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Transitions

Supporting care leavers to take the next steps towards adulthood.

enhancing learning

creating homes

promoting wellbeing

empowering communities

strengthening families

“ For me it gives me the independence I need...it saves me from finding out things the hard way instead of the easy way.”
Jason. User of our Transitions service.

Who are we?

We're part of an organisation called PSS and our purpose is to 'help people get the most from life'. All our services are a bit different, some offer support depending on need, some on age and some on life experience.

What do we do?

Our Transitions service was developed to promote and setup services for young people aged between 16 and 18 years who have left care. In the majority of cases this involves recruiting a 'Shared Lives' or 'Adult Placement' carer whose primary focus is on developing independence and life skills in the young person they work with.

What is 'Shared Lives'?

Shared Lives is a form of support where vulnerable adults and young people over 18 live at home with a specially recruited and trained carer and their family. The service runs in a similar way to a Foster placement, but this service is specifically designed for adults and young people.

Our service is focused around independence and choice. We encourage each individual to get involved in the decision of where they live and we plan our matches carefully, so that both the carer and the person using the service feel happy before the arrangement is made. Within 'Transitions' the main aim of our service is to provide a stepping stone between the formal care system and supported living or full independence.

PSS developed the first Shared Lives service of its kind in Liverpool over 30 years ago but today it is nationwide and run by many different organisations. For us the service has shown real results, creating positive lifestyles for vulnerable adults and it now provides nearly 20 % of support for adults with a learning disability in the UK.

What are the benefits over other forms of care?

Shared Lives or Adult Placement is truly unique because it allows individuals who may not be fully able to live on their own the chance to experience independence. These individuals can live in a safe environment (which PSS has approved) and with carers who are trained to deal with their individual needs. Because each carer family is different and each user of our services is different, we can truly ensure we plan for each individual. No one size fits all and no two families are the same.

Aside from the personal advantages of this service, in terms of providing a family environment, safety, support and independence, Shared Lives or Adult Placement has significant cost savings for each individual. It is estimated that being part of the service can save up to £150k per annum per person in comparison to residential care and supported living and in some areas this figure is much higher.

Who can use Shared Lives?

This service provides support for people who cannot, at the time they start using our service, support themselves fully. They may have a learning or physical disability, a mental health, substance misuse or behavioural problem. We also offer placements for mums and babies, for those who require additional support in the early days of motherhood. The Transitions service can be used by young people who are aged between 16 and 18 at the start of their placement.