PSS Shared Lives Guidance

**Who Would be Expected to Pay for What?**

In everyone’s daily lives there are items we need to purchase and activities we want to do which cost money. The issue of who should be expected to cover these costs when someone lives in a Shared Lives arrangement can be both problematic and at times contentious. In order to assist both Shared Lives carers and schemes to reach decisions with service users (or their advocates) that are fair to all parties, we have worked with Shared Lives members to develop the guidance below. It is important to note that Shared Lives members believe there will always be a need for flexibility in this area and this guidance is not intended to create new rules but more to suggest an approach that we hope will be helpful to all concerned. For ‘grey areas’ dependent on individual circumstances, judgments need to be reached through discussion with relevant parties ie the service user and/ or their circle of support (e.g. family members, advocate, social worker, the Shared Lives carers, scheme representative) then the decision recorded.

| **Payment for** | **By Service User** | **By Shared Lives carers** | **Comments** | **Potential issues** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activities/entrance fees (service user’s) | Yes |  |  |  |
| Activities/entrance fees for Shared Lives carers supporting |  | Yes | For an activity only for the benefit of the service user he/she would be asked to pay the Shared Lives carers’s entrance fee (In some situations a carers will go free or receive a discount).  ***(Evidence and a brief record would protect all parties)*** | Who makes the judgment of who is benefiting? |
| Proportion of Holiday costs when going as part of Shared Lives carers’s family/household | Yes |  | Service users would pay appropriate share of costs for petrol accommodation and other holiday related expenses. If service user needs support with money management, a ***proposed*** ***budget for meals etc. out could be agreed in advance and recorded*** | Can be difficult to calculate some elements on family holidays. |
| Personally selected holiday for service user | Yes |  | If the service user is going on his/her chosen holiday and wants his/her Shared Lives carer to be the person to provide the support he/she needs he/she would be expected to cover both people’s essential holiday costs. (***Evidence and a brief record would protect all parties)*** | Clarity needed about which holiday costs are essential and in some cases for how many Shared Lives carers |
| Service user’s independent holiday (not to meet respite needs) | Yes |  | Service user would **not** be expected to pay **food and utilities** payment to long-term Shared Lives carers for this period. |  |
| Disability equipment /adaptations |  |  | Grants through Social Services and/or housing departments can be available for adaptations and equipment with service users being financially assessed. Small pieces of equipment would be paid for by the service user | To be eligible for a grant the service user would need to be deemed as living in their own home therefore longer term Shared Lives arrangements may attract adaptation funding more easily. |
| Snacks out with day service | Yes |  |  |  |
| Meals out with day services |  |  | If it has been agreed in the service user plan that a packed lunch is provided then an agreed contribution by the Shared Lives carers (cost of packed lunch) could be made if the service user on occasions chooses instead to have a meal out. If this occurs frequently then the service user should cover the cost of meals out**.** | A Shared Lives carers contribution is only appropriate if the Shared Lives carers receive a clear and realistic amount for food within the weekly service user contribution. |
| Snacks out with Shared Lives carers | Yes | Yes | Each cover own costs unless Shared Lives carers invited by service user in which case he/she would pay | Can be difficult in family outing situations |
| Meals out with Shared Lives carers |  |  | * If **only** for Shared Lives carers convenience, Shared Lives carer pays. * If a mutual arrangement each covers own cost. * If at the service user’s special request then he/she could be expected to pay both for himself/herself and the Shared Lives carer/s   ***(Evidence and a brief record would protect all parties)*** |  |
| Meals out without Shared Lives carers | Yes |  | Service user to pay own meals out if Shared Lives carer/s is expected to provide meals as part of Shared Lives arrangement and service user chooses to eat out. |  |
| Day centre attendance fee (if applicable) | Yes |  | Service user should be financially assessed | Shared Lives carer agreements should be clear that day care is not the Shared Lives carers’ regular responsibility nor the funding of the service user’s daycare |
| Dietary requirements and non-prescribed health items or services eg cough syrup chiropody | Yes |  | Any special dietary requirements for medical reasons that incur additional costs to Shared Lives carer/s should be taken into account when the initial carer/s payment is agreed (and at review times) with the scheme/care management.  Non prescribed health items and chiropody costs would be met by the service user |  |
| Cigarettes | Yes |  |  |  |
| Drinks in pub with Shared Lives carers | Yes | Yes | If Service user with sufficient income is out with Shared Lives carers, encouragement to take a turn at buying a ‘round’ may be appropriate. Otherwise service user would buy own drinks |  |
| Clothes | Yes |  |  | Difficulties can arise when service users do not want to replace needed clothing |
| Toiletries/  hairdresser | Yes |  |  |  |
| Birthday and Christmas gifts from service users | Yes |  |  |  |
| Furnishings/  decoration |  |  | Service users pay to live in a furnished/well decorated home but can be expected to purchase any additional items they want for their own room eg additional shelving for CDs particular chair etc. and pay a contribution for redecoration of their room if the change relates to choice rather than need. (***Evidence and a brief record would protect all parties)*** | Disagreements about when ‘need’ and when ‘choice’ should be discussed with the scheme |
| Holiday home | Holiday home |  | Cost to be shared between all people present for rented accommodation. For Shared Lives carers owned property an agreed amount would be contributed by the service user based on the contribution they would make in similar rented accommodation. *(****Recorded*** ***evidence would be needed to demonstrate that the service user has had choice both about the kind of holiday and regularity of visits to the holiday home in order protect all parties)*** |  |