



# Shared Lives Bedfordshire

## Do you have?

- A interest in people?
- Time to share with someone to help them develop?
- A desire to contribute towards the local community or do something worthwhile ?
- A skill or an interest that you would like to share?
- A desire to change careers, work for yourself or find more rewarding work?
- To be valued for the work you do?
- To be your own boss?
- A spare room?

If you answered yes to any of these why not become a Shared Lives Carer with Shared Lives Bedfordshire?

## What is Shared Lives Bedfordshire?

Shared Lives Bedfordshire is a service that works with adults with support needs enabling them to have access to greater opportunities within the local community across Bedfordshire. Shared Lives Bedfordshire achieves this by recruiting, training and supporting people from the community to become Shared Lives Carers and working with them alongside a person with support needs to identify the most suitable match for them, their individual needs and aspirations.

## Current Recruitment Opportunities

Shared Lives Bedfordshire is currently looking to recruit potential Shared Lives Carers to provide anything from a few hours a week or even a few hours a month . Whatever time you have, we are likley to be able to accommodate this as even a little of your time can make a difference to a person's life.

The time you offer can be during the day, evenings, weekends or whatever suits you and your commitments. Shared Lives Bedfordshire are also looking for people who can offer short and longer term support and accommodation from their own home including short breaks so if you have a spare room and time you could provide a vital service to people with support needs.

Shared Lives Bedfordshire are particularly interested in hearing from potential Shared Lives Carers who represent the diverse communities and cultures within the county of Bedfordshire especially in or around the following localities and surrounding villages and areas:

**Bedford, Kempston, Amptill, Flitwick, Biggleswade, Sandy, Dunstable, Houghton Regis, Linslade & Leighton Buzzard**

## Who can become a Shared Lives Carer?

Becoming a Shared Lives Carer is open to anyone who lives within Bedfordshire and would like the opportunity to offer support and different life experiences to adults with support needs. Shared Lives Carers can be single people, couples, families or anyone that can demonstrate the right type of qualities required to carry out the role.

You could be someone that has worked in a care based environment or had experience of working with people with support needs but this is not essential. You don't even need qualifications, as a comprehensive training and support package is given to all of our carers as part of the process of becoming a Shared Lives Carer.

## What qualities do I need to be a Shared Lives Carer?

Anybody can be a Shared Lives Carer; if you are a person who is motivated by helping people, likes a challenge and are looking for something rewarding or a new direction then you could be a potential Shared Lives Carer.

The main qualities required to be a Shared Lives Carer are patience, empathy, a good sense of humour and the ability to tackle the challenges that are presented by everyday life. Perhaps you are a person who has a specific interest or skill that you could share with someone who has support needs? If you have any of these qualities then why not contact Shared Lives Bedfordshire to have an informal chat.

## What checks do you have to be a Shared Lives Carer?

In line with the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults all potential Shared Lives Carers are required to undergo relevant screening checks which include relevant references, applications to the Criminal Records Bureau, individual health checks and other relevant checks. This is done to ensure that potential carers are suitable candidates to carry out the role and that the service protects the people that it works with.

## What support do Shared Lives Carers get?

From your initial application Shared Lives Bedfordshire will provide training and ongoing support to enable you to assist individuals and meet their needs, as well as develop your own skills and knowledge in this area. Shared Lives Bedfordshire offers regular supervision, ongoing monitoring support and plenty of opportunities for you to develop within the role through training.

## Why would I want to be a Shared Lives Carer?

Becoming a Shared Lives Carer is an excellent opportunity to offer people with support needs the chance to share in the many different aspects of everyday life. It's a great opportunity for Shared Lives Carers to enjoy the experience, challenge, sense of achievement and positive feedback you can get from making a difference to people's lives. Being a Shared Lives Carer is about a two way relationship between the service users and carer, so you may even find other rewards such as extending your social network or meeting new people. The other benefits are that you are your own boss meaning that you can offer support as and when you want to, but, that this is balanced with you also having the professional support, encouragement and experience of Shared Lives Bedfordshire to assist you.

## Do Shared Lives Carers get paid?

All Shared Lives Carers are self employed and receive competitive payments for the support or sessions that they provide. This is based upon the type of support and time that you spend supporting service users. Payments can range from a small amount to a significant amount per week depending on what support and time you offer.

Another of the benefits of being a Shared Lives Carer is that the government has significant income tax incentives for Shared Lives Carers most of who don't actually pay income tax or at a very low rate. As a Shared Lives Carer you are required to have specific insurance and pay national insurance contributions but Shared Lives Bedfordshire can advise you on this and the other aspects of taking on the role if needed.

## Would you like to know more?

If you would like further copies, a large-print copy or information about us and our services, please telephone or write to us at our address below.

Për Informacion

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