



Central
Bedfordshire

Bedford Borough Council and
Central Bedfordshire Council

working together

Shared Lives Bedfordshire

A Guide for Shared Lives Carers



Adults and Community Services

About us

The Shared Lives Scheme is a service supporting adults with learning disabilities to access everyday life opportunities within the local community by living or spending time with a family or carer. We achieve this by recruiting, training and supporting Shared Lives Carers and working alongside people with learning disabilities to look at the most suitable match for them and to meet their individual needs. We are based in Kempston, at the back of the Short Breaks Service at George Beal House.

Services offered by the Shared Lives Scheme

The Shared Lives Scheme places between one and a maximum of three adults, with care and support needs with an assessed and trained Carer at any one time. This enables individuals to access and enjoy a more independent life whilst still maintaining, sharing and contributing towards a valuable family lifestyle.

The Shared Lives Scheme recruits Shared Lives Carers who can provide support to individuals ranging from a few hours a week or month; in the daytime or evening, or at weekends in both short or longer term support and accommodation.

There are three main types of Shared Lives Placements:

1. Long Term Placements: Living with a Shared Lives Carer for a long time, like fostering.
2. Short Term Placements: Living with a Shared Lives Carer for a short time, like respite care (Short breaks), but in a family home, rather than a residential service with lots of other people.

In both of these placements the user of the service becomes part of the Shared Lives Carer's family, has their own bedroom and shares the rest of the house.

3. Day or Activity Based Opportunities: The user of the service spends time with an Shared Lives Carer, doing things they enjoy like going to the cinema, out for dinner or any new activities they would like to try but would like support to do.

Who can be a Shared Lives Carer?

Shared Lives Carers can be single people, couples, families, in fact anyone that demonstrates the right type of qualities required to carry out the role. It is not essential that you have worked in a care environment or even had experience of people with learning disabilities before as the Shared Lives Scheme will assist you in every aspect of the support you provide. Qualifications are not required. The main qualities are patience, empathy, a sense of humour and the ability to meet the challenges that are presented by everyday life.

Becoming a Share Lives Carer is an excellent opportunity to offer people with learning disabilities the chance to share the many different aspects of everyday life. It is also great for the Shared Lives Carer to enjoy the experience, challenge, sense of achievement and positive feedback you can get from working with people with learning disabilities.

The Shared Lives Scheme will provide training and ongoing support to enable you to assist individuals and meet their needs. The scheme will also help you to develop your own skills and knowledge in this area as well as offering regular supervision, ongoing monitoring support and further opportunities to develop. Shared Lives Carers also receive financial payment for the support or sessions they provide.

Even if you can spare a few hours a week or month then The Shared Lives Scheme would like to hear from you.

Safeguarding adults

Abuse is mistreatment by any other person that violates your human and civil rights. We are committed to safeguarding vulnerable adults from abuse (SOVA). If you are being abused or suspect that someone you know may be the victim of abuse contact Adults and Community Services. Your concerns will be taken seriously and will receive prompt attention.

As part of Bedford Borough's and Central Bedfordshire's commitment to the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults (SOVA), part of the Shared Lives recruitment process will require you and your family to undergo relevant

screening checks which will include applications to the Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly CRB) and your GP to ensure you are a suitable candidate.

Having your say


We would like you to tell us how you think Bedford Borough Council's Adults and Community Services have worked for you and what you think of our services. Our staff will ask for your views throughout your contact with us.

To give us feedback on the service you have received, please speak to the manager or staff of the Adult Placement Scheme or write to us at the address on the back page.

Bedford Borough Council's Adults and Community Services are independently regulated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). If you want to discuss our service(s) with them they can be contacted at:



 **03000 616161**

 **Care Quality Commission**
Citygate
Gallowgate
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4PA

 **enquiries@cqc.org.uk**

How to find us



Turn into Williamson Road, and then into Carnell Close, which is opposite the shops.

Finding out 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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Per Informazione

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Informacja

Za Informacije

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Contact The Adult Placement Scheme



01234 228414



George Beal House

Williamson Road

Kempston

MK42 7HL



Apsb@bedford.gov.uk

General Enquiries



01234 267422



Adults and Community Service

Bedford Borough Council

Borough Hall

Cauldwell Street

Bedford

MK42 9AP



care@bedford.gov.uk

**Ask for leaflet
AS160_13**