

Your easier to read guide to Shared Lives



Updated November 2016
www.kent.gov.uk/sharedlives



What is the Shared Lives Service?

The Shared Lives Service is about people sharing family life with a Shared Lives Host in the family's home.

This could be for:

- the day
- a couple of nights
- a week or two
- or all the time.



You may have heard of Shared Lives under its previous name - 'The Adult Placement Scheme'.



The Shared Lives Host could live in a town or a village, by the sea or in the country.

They could be single, with a partner, family member or with children. Some Hosts have pets.



The Shared Lives placement will allow you to live as part of a family, giving you the opportunities to do the things you would like to do.



You will be matched with the Shared Lives Host. They will be trained to help and support you at the placement and in the community.



You will always have your own bedroom.

You will normally share the bathroom and the rest of the house with the Host and their family.

Who can use the Shared Lives Service?

People who are over 16 and are:

- living with dementia
- have a learning disability
- have autism or Asperger's syndrome
- have a physical disability
- have mental health difficulties
- have a health or sensory disability
- an older person with support needs.



To be referred to the service ask your Care or Case Manager.

If you do not have one and would like an assessment contact Kent County Council (KCC) on 03000 414141.



The Care or Case Manager may, with your permission, talk to other people about how to meet your needs.

And if Shared Lives is right for you.

The Care or Case Manager will work with the Shared Lives team to look at potential Hosts for you.



They will also meet with you to check how you are getting along with the placement.



Information about you:

The Shared Lives team will be given information about you.



You have a right to know what information Shared Lives are keeping about you.

You also have a right to change this information if you feel it is wrong.



This information will only be kept by Shared Lives for as long as the information is needed, it will then be disposed of securely.



How is the Shared Lives service paid for?

Kent County Council (KCC) will pay for part of the cost of your placement.

You will usually have to put some money to the cost of the placement yourself.



Someone from KCC's finance department will talk to you about this.

They will tell you what you need to pay and check you are claiming all the benefits you are entitled to.



If you decide not to share your financial details with KCC, then you will be expected to pay for the full cost of your care.



Shared Lives costs

It is important that you know what you need to pay for.

KCC will pay towards your support needs and Shared Lives is a social care service.



For further information Shared Lives can give you a 'who pays for what' guide.

Or ask your Shared Lives Host, Shared Lives worker or your Care or Case Manager.



Finding the right Shared Lives Host family for you

To help find the right placement we will look at:

- Your age, your health and your support needs
- What kind of Host family you would like to spend time with – a person on their own or a family, someone who lives in a town or a village, someone with pets or children.





- What things are important to you – like what you believe in, things you like to do, plans and hopes for the future.



Shared Lives will give you information about the possible Host.

If you agree we will start the process of matching and arrange a visit to meet them.



If we cannot find a suitable Shared Lives placement for you we will tell the person who referred you.



How are people introduced to a Shared Lives Host family?

The Shared Lives team will tell the Host and their family about you.



If the Shared Lives Host thinks that they can meet your needs then you will be told about this and a meeting will be arranged.



This is normally done at the Host family's home.

You can look at the room and the home and meet other members of the family.



You can meet the Host as many times as you like to help you decide the placement is right for you.

This could include going for tea or having a few overnight visits before you decide to stay regularly or for a longer term placement.



You will both be asked how you feel about the placement and how things are going.



If you feel you no longer want to carry on getting to know the Host then the visits can be stopped.

An alternative Host could be considered.



In longer term placements there will be a review held around 12 weeks to allow everyone to discuss if the placement is right.

What to expect in a Shared Lives placement



- You will be able to say 'yes' or 'no' when choosing someone to stay with.



- If you are staying overnight or longer you will have your own furnished room.
- You will be able to take things of your own.



- You will be able to visit your friends and family or they can visit you.
- You will be able to meet new people and also be able to try out new things if you wish.



- You will be supported to do things you choose to do.
- You can learn new skills.
- The Shared Lives Host will help you to take part in your usual activities where possible.



- Your Shared Lives Host will treat you with respect.

House rules



Every Shared Lives placement will be different and you may be asked to keep to some house rules.

This could be having friends in after a certain time or playing loud music later at night.



These rules will be different in each placement and will be talked about with you when you visit the Host family.



Placement Agreement

The placement agreement is where the things that everyone agrees to are written down so that you and your Host know what is expected.

This may include:

- The date you start your placement
- House rules
- Anything else you or the Host feel is important to write down.





Ending a placement

For many different reasons a placement may end.

If the Host chooses to end a placement you will be told at least 60 working days before this happens if your placement is longer term or for short breaks and 20 working days for day support.



If you or your Care or Case Manager wish to give notice you will have to give 20 working days' notice and they will help you find an alternative.



Making a complaint

If you are unhappy about anything to do with your placement you can tell your Care or Case Manager, the Shared Lives team or your Host.



If you are unhappy about other services or other things in your life you can talk to your Care or Case Manager who will help you find a solution or help you to report this to someone who can.



Telephone: 03000 410 410



Text Relay Service: 18001 03000 410410



Email: complaintsteamadults@kent.gov.uk



If you are still unhappy then Kent County Council has a complaints procedure which you can request or you could also write or get someone who will help you to write to the Care Quality Commission.



For more information about Shared Lives you can:



Visit: www.kent.gov.uk/sharedlives



Email: sharedlives@kent.gov.uk



Telephone: 03000 412400



Or write to:
Shared Lives
Kent County Council
Social Care, Health and Wellbeing
Kroner House
Eurogate Business Park
Ashford
Kent
TN24 8XU

For more information on the Shared Lives scheme go to:

www.kent.gov.uk/sharedlives

This pamphlet is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.



03000 421553



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