(30) Risk Assessment and Risk Management Strategy

It is the policy of Kent Shared Lives to ensure that its risk assessment procedures and risk management strategies enable its Shared Lives hosts to support adults in taking responsible risks as part of an independent lifestyle.

This Policy forms an integral part of the adult care and support plan.

1. Prior to the placement, a risk assessment will be carried out by the social worker/care manager and Shared Lives, as part of the needs assessment.
2. The risk assessment will identify the potential risks and hazards for the adult, as well as those posed by the adult for the host and/or others within the placement or the local community. It will take account of the adult’s wishes and requirements.
3. Prior to the placement, a risk assessment of the hosts’ home will be carried out by Shared Lives, which takes into account the risk assessment undertaken as part of the adults’ needs assessment.
4. Assessment of the risk will involve the referring agency and/or representatives from health and social services, relevant specialists, the adult and the host.
5. A risk management strategy will be developed to address identified risks and to enable the adult to undertake agreed and desired activities. Agreed strategies to manage the risk(s) will be recorded in the individual care and support plan.
6. Shared Lives will provide the host with the appropriate training, advice and ongoing support to enable the host to:
   6.1 act to remove/reduce identified risks and hazards for the adult and
   6.2 ensure the adult receives personal safety and other training to avoid limiting his/her lifestyle activities or choices; and
   6.3 act promptly in the event of an unexplained absence by the adult.
7. Risk and risk management strategies will be subject to regular review, at formal reviews or when changes in circumstance necessitate.