

Testimonials from our Shared Lives carers



If you're thinking of becoming a Shared Lives carer, our current carers can give you a real insight into what it's like to be a part of our family.

Read what they have to say about their shared lives experiences. We believe you will find these real life testimonials really helpful if you are considering becoming a shared lives carer.

Marlene

I've been a Shared Lives carer since 2013. I live with my son who is classed as an attached carer and my husband.

It's very gratifying to see the people that come into our lives as withdrawn or anxious becoming more independent and confident.

I provide help and support with all aspects of care including personal care, budgeting finances and helping them to maintain all appropriate networks and family links.

We currently have two people living with us on long term placements.

We have been away a number of times as a family and where possible enjoy accessing any planned trips organised by the council's Shared Lives team.



Jackie

My husband and I are very happy to be a part of Shared Lives. We currently have two people living with us on long-term placements. As they are both a similar age to us, we are able to cater to their needs very well. We have found common interests which mean we are able to do lots of things together as a family.

We have a caravan on the east coast where we all love to go during the summer months. While there we enjoy going fishing, taking short walks, going to car boot sales, eating out, going to the theatre and socialising with friends and family at the many fundraising nights held at the caravan site.

At home as well as the activities already mentioned, we enjoy visiting relatives who have accepted both Pam and Phil as part of the family, going to local garden centres and shopping.

We have an extremely active life full of fun which we feel enhances Pam and Phil's lives.

We do not look upon what we do as a job, but as a different way of life and have made it work for us.

Steve

I live with my partner George and we have been Shared Lives carer for four years.

I have worked within various social services roles for 24 years. George has been retired from a job as a builder's merchant prior to becoming Shared Lives carers.

During this period of time we have supported two people long-term, one for six months and another who has lived with us now for four years. We also support 11 other people on respite care, which can be from one night up to two weeks. We also support seven people on day care, this tends to be when their Shared Lives carers are on holiday.

Each person is an individual and are treated as such. Their care is designed to meet their needs, our role as Shared Lives carer is to provide as much choice and freedom as is practicable, whilst involving them in the community.

Our roles involve us supporting people with personal care, budgeting, promoting independence and maintaining strong community and familial links.

The gentleman who has lived with us for 4 years has been on family holidays with George and I to Gran Canaria, Benidorm and Gibraltar. He is always given the choice of staying in respite with other carers or coming with us.

All the people we provide support to have been profile matched to us by the council's Shared Lives team. This profile matching is necessary as an incorrect placement could have a negative impact on the service user and/or family dynamics.

