



## What is Shared Lives?

**Shared Lives South West is an award winning, independent organisation.**

Services focus on one household sharing their home, family life and their interests with someone with support needs. It's like adult fostering.

SLSW carers open their own home to someone needing support. They either move in with the carer or enjoy a short break. SLSW Carers help with all aspects of life from cooking, to being part of the local community to realising their aspirations and dreams.

This personalised service is one of the most highly rated forms of social care available in the UK.

Shared Lives South West was set up in 2004 and covers Devon, Torbay, Plymouth, Cornwall and Somerset.



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Visit our website to watch videos of our carers talking about their role



[www.sharedlivessw.org.uk](http://www.sharedlivessw.org.uk)

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Shared Lives South West is a registered charity, number 1104699.  
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Share your home.  
Share your life.

## About Shared Lives Services





## Our Shared Lives Carers

**Our Shared Lives Carers are chosen for their care experience, their knowledge, skills and their person centered values.**

They have suitable accommodation in their homes and want to share this to support people to work towards their own goals and aspirations.

All Shared Lives Carers are comprehensively assessed and checked before being approved and have to meet agreed standards to be part of a Shared Lives scheme.

SLSW Carers receive support from a Shared Lives Coordinator, who are experienced in the health and social care sector and are employed by Shared Lives South West. They support a number of carers through visits and telephone support. They also work with the person using the service and the Shared Lives Carer to identify outcomes for the Shared Lives placement and monitor progress against these.

## Our Shared Lives Services

**We specialise in the provision of Shared Lives services in the South West.**

We offer services to people with:

- 🏠 A learning disability
- 🏠 Those with mental health issues
- 🏠 Older people
- 🏠 People with dementia
- 🏠 Parents with a learning disability

The services are available to adults, usually over 18, although we can support young people aged 16+ in transition to adult care.

We offer long term placements, services offering a pathway to more independent living and regular or one off short breaks in a wide variety of rural and urban settings. In certain circumstances we might be able to provide a service at short notice.



## Costing and Funding

Our charges for long term services and short breaks cover the accommodation costs and the support provided by SLSW and our approved carers. Where an individual has eligible care needs and chooses SLSW as their care provider, we work with the local authority to agree funding towards the cost of the service. We work with long term placements to support them to claim all welfare benefits they are entitled to, to help pay for their service.

## Accessing our Services

**People who use our services and their families can request a service direct from SLSW or via a social worker or care manager in the local authority.**

A referral form can be downloaded from our website or requested from the office. If we have a suitable vacancy, we arrange several introductory meetings which can be followed by some trial short breaks.

