

All you need to know about our Shared Lives South West Foster Transition service



Who are we?

Shared Lives South West (SLSW) is an award-winning charity that sets up and supports long term and short break care services throughout Devon, Cornwall and Somerset.

We provide care and support and we are an alternative to supported living and residential care.

We have been helping to support people for more than 15 years and we are a highly regarded care provider, rated [Outstanding](#) by the Care Quality Commission.



What do we do?

SLSW offers a variety of long term, short breaks (respite) and day opportunities to a wide range of individuals. We specialise in supporting people with learning disabilities, autism, mental health needs, dementia and older adults.

Those who use our services can live or stay in the home of one of our approved carers. All of our carers have been through an assessment process, approved by an independent panel and are supported and monitored by skilled staff from SLSW.



About our foster transition service

We are an adult service.

You will stay in same home, with your same carer. Your carer will become a SLSW carer rather than a foster carer.

You will need to pay for part of your SLSW service. This will be discussed with you.



How can we help you?

- Support can be given to help you achieve your goals in life.
- Your carer can help you to develop your independence skills and help with further education, employment, voluntary work and day activities.
- Support you to gain confidence as you become an adult.
- Help you to get involved with the local community and meet new people.
- We can check you are on the right benefits.
- SLSW and your carer will strive to enable you to have your thoughts and opinions heard and can help you grow your confidence.



What happens next?

- If you are interested in finding out more about Shared Lives let us know or you can ask someone to contact us for you.
- You would then consent to share your information with us by filling in our referral form. Someone can help you with this.
- A Shared Lives Coordinator can meet with you as you will see them regularly.
- Your foster carer and social worker will talk about the transition.
- Your foster carer would have to become SLSW Carer for you to stay.



What will my SLSW placement cost me?

This may seem confusing, but a Shared Lives Coordinator will happily explain it to you.

You can buy Shared Lives services in many ways:

- By a commissioned service and pay the rent and household costs, plus any financial assessment.
- By self-funding if you have more than £23,250.00 to cover support and rent household costs, organisational fees and VAT. In Somerset there are no organisational fees.
- If service commissioned under Section 117, there will be no cost to you.

Everyone living with a carer has to pay rent and household costs (except Section 117). The rent is for your room and household costs are to cover your food, washing and paying towards gas and electric. After we receive your referral we will look at your needs and work out the predicted costs of you using our services.