

All you need to know about our Shared Lives South West dementia support

Who are we?

Shared Lives South West 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?

People who use our service are able to self-fund. We specialise in supporting people with learning disabilities, autism, mental health needs, dementia and older people. Those who use our services can live in the home of one of our approved carers.

How can we help you?

- We listen to you and those who know you best.
- We work with you to find a suitable Carer.
- Your Carer will replicate your routines you have had at home and provide stability.
- Support can be given with: your money and accessing groups, clubs and day services.
- Your Carer can help you maintain your skills.
- At SLSW we have a specialist trained dementia champion to help support you with your placement.
- We can support you accessing dementia appropriate activities such as memory cafés and support groups.

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 family member can do this for you.
- From the form we will see what support you need and whether you can afford to pay towards the service
- We work with you to try and find a suitable Carer.
- We arrange for you to meet the Carer and see the house. You can bring someone with you to the visit.
- After meeting the Carer we will ask you what you think.
- If everyone is happy we can plan the next step. This looks different for everyone; it may be going for dinner, an overnight stay, a weekend break or moving straight in!
- You will have a dedicated Shared Lives worker who will get to know you and keep in touch with you.

What will it cost me?

You can buy Shared Lives services in many ways:

- By Direct Payment and pay the rent and household costs.
- By a Commissioned service and pay the rent and household costs.
- By self-funding if you have more than £23,250.00 to cover support and rent household costs.

Everyone living with a carer has to pay rent and household costs. 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.

There is no need to worry, every person's situation is different and we are here to help.



Debbie

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I have a learning disability and dementia. I have a good carer and she helps me. She takes me out for meals and reminds me to take my tablets and to bath. She also helps me with all my appointments and I'm really happy with my carer. We have a nice cat and dog too which makes me very happy.

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Bob

They treat me as one of the family. Giving up smoking was one of the hardest things I have ever done but I did it this year with help. I like living here, the people, I am not lonely any more, we get out and about. I can please myself, do whatever I want to do - go fishing, out for a drink or a meal, a ride in the car or maybe go to the beach or a garden.

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