

OP10 *Health and Safety in the Carer Household*

1. Policy Statement

- 1.1 Shared Lives South West (SLSW) will ensure that the care it provides is carried out in premises that are safe, by suitably qualified carers.
- 1.2 SLSW will meet its responsibilities of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and all associated regulations, and the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014: Regulations 12 and 15 by establishing monitoring and support arrangements that incorporate the requirements of each applicable regulation.

2. General principles

- 2.1 Carers must be aware of their reporting responsibilities and operate transparent and candid working practices in relation to SLSW, in order for SLSW to fulfil its reporting responsibilities.
- 2.2 SLSW will support Carers to risk assess their home environment and will review this annually or more frequently where required in response to changes or when Carers move house.
- 2.3 Carer's homes must be in a reasonably habitable condition and where significant risk is identified, Carers must take sufficient remedial action as required by SLSW.
- 2.4 Staff will be given guidance to assist with the completion of a risk assessment of a Carer's home environment, which will be identified as a Health and Safety Checklist.
- 2.5 Staff and Carers will be suitably trained in areas of Health and Safety to ensure they can manage and monitor the requirements of SLSW homes.
- 2.6 Environmental risk assessment for people being supported will be considered when placements start but will not be considered mandatory for everyone supported because the Home Health and Safety checklist may be proportionately sufficient.
- 2.7 SLSW will take a reasonable approach regarding expectations of Health and Safety within a Carer's home, accepting that Carers are self-employed and responsible for the management of their home which is a domestic setting and balancing this with the requirements of the role of a professional Carer.
- 2.8 SLSW will make clear what its minimum requirements are for Carer's homes in respect of carrying out Shared Lives services on its behalf, and

will reserve the right to deploy the Carer Code of Conduct Policy and/or the De-approval policy if Carers persistently fail to respond to the specific requirements communicated by SLSW.

2.9 Carers must know how and when to contact the emergency services.

2.10 SLSW will operate a positive risk-taking approach when it comes to promoting independent life skills for people supported.

3. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health

3.1 A “substance hazardous to health” is any material or mixture, which is used at a place of work including in the home of the Carer, and which could prove harmful to a person’s health through **absorption** through the skin, **ingestion** through the mouth or **inhalation** through breathing.

3.2 SLSW will ensure that its staff and Carers are aware of the risks posed by substances and understand their responsibilities for how they should be stored and used.

3.3 SLSW will ensure Carers are aware of the need to store, handle and administer medications in accordance with each medication’s instructions due to the potential of medications being substances hazardous to health. The SLSW Control of Medications policy and associated requirements is provided to staff and Carers for further detail.

4. Infection Prevention and First Aid

4.1 SLSW Carers must be trained in basic Emergency First Aid, including CPR and SLSW in house Health and Safety training, as it covers all areas listed in this policy.

4.2 If Carers are unable to demonstrate their ability to perform CPR, a risk assessment should be created and shared with the person supported and/or their representatives.

4.3 Carer households will have a sufficiently stocked first aid pack which includes disposable protective gloves.

4.4 Arrangements must be made available for Carers to access or purchase additional PPE as required within a reasonably urgent time frame as need requires. If PPE requirement is specific to an individual’s needs, their care plan should indicate the arrangement for these to be made available to the Carer.

4.5 Carers will receive training in managing infections and outbreaks of disease. SLSW will discuss the Carer’s competence in infection prevention as part of

the Health and Safety checklist. If a Carer is unable to demonstrate satisfactory knowledge, SLSW will retain the right to request the Carer completes additional refresher training in order to continue in their caring role.

5. Fire Safety

- 5.1 SLSW will monitor and support Carers to take preventative measures from risk of fire in the home.
- 5.2 SLSW will make clear to staff and Carers its minimum requirements for Carer households in relation to its fire prevention practices and equipment.
- 5.3 SLSW recommends Carers request a home Fire Safety Inspection by the relevant Fire Service Authority. The inspection service is made available to all SLSW homes because of the professional care service being provided.
- 5.4 For individuals with specific needs - such as impaired mobility - that would impact on their ability to evacuate the home safely in the event of a fire, or impact on the ability for them to be left unsupervised in the home, specific support approaches and/or relevant risk assessment should be clearly documented for the individual and Carers are required to demonstrate sound knowledge.

6. Manual handling

- 6.1 SLSW will consider all forms of assistance with moving a person supported as manual handling and requires Carers to be sufficiently trained in order to do so safely.
- 6.2 SLSW staff will regularly check as part of placement monitoring any requirement for the Carer to assist people supported with moving and will update care plans accordingly and add manual handling training to a Carer's action plan if required.
- 6.3 In order to support the Carer in their role, SLSW requires Carers to be transparent about all approaches and strategies they use to meet the needs of people supported.
- 6.4 Carers must inform SLSW about any event where they have needed to put hands on the person supported in order to assist them.

7. Food safety

- 7.1 Carers are required to demonstrate good personal hygiene including effective handwashing.

- 7.2 Carers will provide food that is safe for human consumption and that meets the preferences and dietary requirements of the person/people being supported.
- 7.3 Food preparation space and equipment in the Carer's home will be kept clean and free from contamination
- 7.4 Training will be provided to Carers as required by SLSW.

8. Review

- 8.1 This policy will be reviewed every two years, or earlier if required.

9. Responsibilities

- 9.1 The Registered Manager has overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy.