

Your referral guide to Shared Lives South West

Who are Shared Lives South West?

Shared Lives South West (SLSW) provides Shared Lives services in Devon, Somerset, Plymouth, Torbay and Cornwall.

Established for more than 15 years, SLSW is a registered charity and is regulated by the Care Quality Commission who rate us as **Outstanding**.

SLSW has a successful track record in delivering and developing Shared Lives services and has won regional and national awards for the quality of the care provided.

What services does Shared Lives South West provide?

SLSW specialises in the provision of Shared Lives services for people aged 16+. We offer:

- **Long-term services:** Where an individual lives permanently with one of our Shared Lives Carers. This may be for many years or until the individual has gained daily living skills to move on to a more independent setting.
- **Short breaks:** Where the person stays with a Shared Lives Carer for regular or one-off breaks.
- **Day time services:** Where the Shared Lives Carer supports someone in the carer's home and the community during the day.
- **Flexible support:** Where the primary purpose is to support the person in a community-based activity.
- **Just next door support:** Where the individual can move on to a more independent living arrangement within or very near to the Shared Lives Carer's home.
- **Home from Hospital:** Similar to short breaks but the aim being to help someone convalesce after a hospital stay to integrate back into the community and their own home situation.

Who can Shared Lives South West support?

Our services can meet a very wide range of support needs as our carers have a very broad base of skills and experience. We can offer a support service to:

- People with a learning disability.
- Foster transitions- those moving into adulthood who wish to remain with their foster carers (the foster carers will need to become Shared Lives Carers).
- People with autism.
- Young people with a disability in transition into adult services from aged 16+.
- People with mental health needs.
- Older people.
- People with dementia.
- Parents with disabilities and their children.
- People needing home from hospital support and reablement in the community.

Shared Lives arrangements can be self-funded, funded by Adult Social Care and/ or Health budgets. The person/ agency funding the arrangement are known as "the purchaser".

What are the benefits of a Shared Lives service?

Shared Lives is:

- **Cost effective:** A Shared Lives service usually costs the funder no more or even less than a residential care placement or a supported living service.
- **An alternative to traditional settings:** Nursing and residential homes do not suit everyone.
- **Outcomes focussed:** The service is focused on the individual and what they want to achieve.
- **Enabling:** Shared Lives gives people the opportunity to have one to one support to develop their daily living skills and independence and many people move onto a more independent setting after a service with SLSW. Our service is based on the strengths and abilities of the individual and working with them to fulfil their ambitions and desires such as getting a job, making friends, learning new skills and going to new places.

- **Personalised:** The service is delivered in a small-scale family setting and the SLSW Carer gets to know the individual really well, so can tailor all aspects of their support to the specific and unique needs and aspirations of each individual.
- **Community based:** Shared Lives takes place in an ordinary family home within the local community and people who use the service are supported to become active citizens.
- **Warm and caring:** the person who uses the service is supported to share in home and family life and is embraced as a full member of that family. Our support is all about living a full and happy life.

How is our service delivered?

SLSW delivers its service through a network of approved Shared Lives Carers. They have been comprehensively assessed and checked before being approved. They undergo training before and after approval and have to meet agreed standards of care to be part of the scheme.

Each of our Shared Lives Carers is supported by an experienced worker (Shared Lives Coordinator) employed by the scheme. They will monitor and support the service through a personalised plan of visits that can be face to face (Government restrictions allowing) and by phone to both the Shared Lives Carer and the person using the service and SLSW will liaise with other relevant parties when appropriate such as family members, day services, colleges, care managers and other professionals when appropriate.

All Shared Lives services provide the following:

- Inclusion in home and family life.
- Support to develop your potential and work towards achieving goals and aspirations.
- Encouragement to take positive risks, in a safe and supportive environment.
- Flexible and responsive support, tailored to the person's (changing) needs.
- Encouragement to develop and express personal preferences, choices and views (including cultural/spiritual).
- Enabling support to develop and maintaining independence.

Funding arrangements

- Arrangements can be funded privately (self-funded), by direct payments/ Health budgets, directly by the support element and/ or Health.
- Once a referral has been received and throughout the process of identifying a match, SLSW will work with the individual and/ or care manager to determine the banding level (we use our banding tool to help with this process) and this determines the costings which is based on the individual's needs.
- Arrangements are made up of two elements rent and household costs (funded by the individual) and then the social care element (funded, usually, by Adult Social Care and/ or Health). If an individual is self-funding then they will be expected to cover both elements. This is explained in more detail in the Information For Care Managers Pack.

Step by Step referral to arrangement process

Step 1 – The Referral

Once the referral has been received we will initially screen to ensure funding is in place or able to be secured. We will then start the process of identifying suitable options for the individual to consider. SLSW can provide some initial estimates of the cost of the service at the referral stage. In the referral document we ask that all relevant financial information is included so that SLSW can do an initial check about the financial viability of the that is being requested.



Step 2 – Matching and introductory visits

The arrangement of the service will include a thorough matching and introductory process, which may include the delivery of day and overnight short breaks to ensure that the service can safely and appropriately be delivered, that the needs and aspirations of the individual have been fully explored and all parties agree.

Introductory stays are part of the essential processes of SLSW and will be charged Short Breaks rate.

Step 3 – Agree the service to be delivered

If a suitable vacancy has been identified and there has been a successful introductory stay/s, the purchaser will agree with SLSW the banding level and the funding is arranged.

At 15 weeks a Shared Lives Plan will be produced to map the support and outcomes for the individual. The Shared Lives Plan clearly identifies the aim and objectives of the arrangement. This may range from assisting the individual to remain fit and well or assist an individual to develop daily living skills to enable them to move into an independent setting when they are ready.

Step 4- The arrangement

The arrangement has an agreed start date. The cost of the service and any related introductory visits will need to be agreed by the purchaser. Once funding has been agreed a SLSW Confirmation of Funding form must be signed by the purchaser and returned to SLSW.

No service can commence until the Confirmation of Funding form has been signed, returned and received by SLSW and a support plan is in place.

Step 5 – Local authority Charging assessments

Please note- Any arrangement that is funded by Adult Social Care/Health budget will be subject to a financial assessment to see if the person supported can contribute towards their support.

How do I find out more about Shared Lives services?

You can visit our website at www.sharedlivessw.org.uk and watch the films and read the case studies, and look at all our current SLSW Carer vacancies.

The referral form is downloadable in the Referral Enquiry Pack, but if you require a hard copy please contact us on the numbers below. More details can be provided around costs of an arrangement and the contractual elements in the Information for Care Managers Pack once a referral form has been submitted.

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