



Merton Shared Lives Scheme

Shared Lives nationally

- There are over 10,000 Shared Lives carers in the UK, recruited, trained and approved by 153 local schemes, which are regulated by each home nation's care inspectors. Shared Lives is growing by 14% p.a: an extra 1,300 people each year
- Shared Lives Plus is the UK network for family-based and small-scale ways of supporting adults. Their members are Shared Lives carers and workers, and Homeshare programmes

<https://sharedlivesplus.org.uk/>

Shared Lives nationally

What is Shared Lives?

- Shared lives schemes support adults with learning disabilities, mental health problems or other needs that make it harder for them to live on their own.
- A shared lives carer shares their home and family life with an adult who needs care or support to help them live well.
- People using Shared Lives are valued as an equal member of the household.
- Individuals are matched with Shared Lives carers making it person centred
- Can be long term, short breaks or day support

Shared Lives nationally

What are some of the benefits of Shared Lives?

- Sharing a home, family and community life with a shared lives carer lets individuals get to know and bond with the carer.
- Before starting the scheme, individuals have the chance to get to know the shared lives carer and decide whether they want to spend time together.
- Individuals sometimes use a shared lives scheme as a way of learning the skills they need to live independently and to help them put down roots in the area or community before moving into a place of their own.

Shared Lives nationally

<https://youtu.be/Zx02T23F8II>

Merton Shared Lives Scheme

- Merton Shared Lives is a well-established Scheme, in existence since 2008, with robust policies and procedures in place. Merton Shared Lives received a 'good' rating across all 5 areas; safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led from CQC following their inspection in September 2017
- The Shared Lives Team establishment consists of 1 full time Team Manager, 1 full time Shared Lives Officers and 1 full time Shared Lives Coordinator

Merton Shared Lives Scheme

- The Merton Shared Lives Scheme currently has 17 Shared Lives Carers providing 46 placements for the Scheme. All of the Carers have been assessed through Merton's Shared Lives assessment panel and receive regular checks and training. Many of the Carers have worked with Merton for in excess of 15 years.
- Of those 46 placements:-
 - 33 individuals have mental health needs
 - 7 individuals have Learning Disabilities
 - 6 individuals have physical disabilities/general care needs

Merton Shared Lives Scheme

- Merton Shared Lives Schemes currently offer long term placements and respite
- As well as traditional Shared Lives placements whereby an individual lives in a Shared Lives Carers home, the Merton Shared Lives Scheme also has a step down facility whereby individuals who have gained independent skills or do not need to live with a Carer can be referred for placement whereby they share accommodation with up to 2 other service users and receive floating support

Merton Shared Lives Scheme

Costings

- **Long term placements-** 2 elements; rent and support.

Rent- The individual is responsible for their rent but would be supported by the Scheme to apply for relevant Welfare Benefits to assist them with this.

Support- The individual will be assessed prior to moving to the Scheme to establish what band of support they will receive depending on their support needs

- **Respite**

Respite arrangements are set at a nightly fee and are inclusive of the above plus meals. The respite rate will also be dependent on the individuals support needs

Merton Shared Lives Scheme

Referral process

- To be referred to the Merton Shared Lives Scheme for either a long term placement or a respite, an individual or their friends/family must contact the individuals Social Worker/Care Manager. If they do not have an allocated Social Worker/Care Manager they can contact their Care Management Team i.e. the Learning Disability Team, Mental Health Team, to ask that they be allocated so a Shared Lives placement can be considered

Merton Shared Lives Scheme

Going forward

- Merton Shared Lives Schemes want to be able to provide more placements to those with learning disabilities
- Would you be more interested in long term or respite placements? Or both?
- If the Scheme carried out a recruitment drive for new Shared Lives Carers to meet this need, what qualities would in a Carer would you be looking for?

Merton Shared Lives Scheme

Contact details

Telephone :

020 8545 3988/3966/3427

Email:

Shared.Lives@merton.gov.uk

Website:

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/council-tax-benefits-and-housing/sheltered-and-supported-housing/shared-lives-scheme>