

What rewards are there for carers?

- A rate per person for help and support during their stay
- Job satisfaction in that you will be improving someone's life



Can carers take breaks or go on holiday?

Yes, although there will be time restraints.

We will arrange for the individual to either have a short term stay with another Shared Lives carer or to stay at a respite unit.

What happens if the placement is not a good match or you want to stop being a carer?

We will do everything we can to ensure that both the individual and the carer get on well before the placement is set up. You will have the opportunity to meet the individual beforehand, so you can start to get to know each other. There will also be an initial trial period that will allow either party to change their mind.



If you decide that the scheme is not for you, or your circumstances change, then you are able to leave the scheme. Shared Lives staff will be able to advise and assist you with this.

Where can I find out more?

For more information, or to speak to a member of the Shared Lives team to discuss the possibility of becoming a carer, then please contact us by:

Phone: **01582 548273**

or

Email: **sharedlives@luton.gov.uk**

Alternatively you can write to us at:

Shared Lives

PTU Unit 1

Portland Court Unit 1

Kingsway Depot

Kingsway

Luton

Bedfordshire

LU4 8AU



Shared Lives



Help improve a life



www.luton.gov.uk

LUTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Do you think you have what it takes to make a real difference to someone's life?

Are you interested in a satisfying job that you can do in your own home?

What is the Shared Lives scheme?

Shared Lives is a scheme that enables adults with learning disabilities to live in the community as valued members of society.

How does this work?

The Shared Lives team at Luton Borough Council makes arrangements for individuals and families in Luton to provide accommodation and support to local adults with learning disabilities who may need a bit of extra support to live happy and independent lives.

We recruit carers on short term, permanent and an emergency basis.

We train, support and monitor the care of people placed within the scheme.

Who is eligible to provide these services?

Carers range from ordinary families, to couples and single people. We recruit people from a range of different backgrounds, skill sets and life experiences.

How will people be matched?

Shared Lives take great care in ensuring that there are appropriate matches. This will involve a three way choice between us, the service user and the approved carer.

I am interested in becoming a Shared Life Carer

If you live in Luton and have a room you'd like to rent, there is a life-changing opportunity for you to have a person live with you and your family on a permanent basis; or for a few nights a month. We are also looking for emergency respite carers who can offer placements at short notice.

No qualifications are needed - just a willingness to care and share your life with others. Rent, expenses and full training are provided!

You can apply to the scheme if you have a mortgage or rent your home. If you rent you must gain permission in writing from your landlord.



What help is available to carers?

- Full induction and training
- Support from Shared Lives staff
- Contact and interaction with other carers within the scheme
- An offer of a placement that will provide flexibility and suit existing commitments



Are carers employed by the individual or by Luton Borough Council, through Shared Lives?

Although carers are approved by Shared Lives and individuals are involved in choosing their placement, carers are actually self-employed. This means they are responsible for paying their own taxes and National Insurance Contributions.

I want become a Shared Lives carer. What do I do next?

You must complete a tailored application form and complete an assessment process. The process will include:

- reference checks on all members of your household
- an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check (police check)
- looking at the space available in your house and its suitability to care for an individual
- ensuring that your home environment is safe.

A final decision on suitability will be made by a panel.