

Shared Lives

Shared Lives (SL) is a service provided by individuals and families (SL Carers) in local communities and is distinguished by the following features:

- SL arrangements are part of organised SL Schemes that approve and train the SL Carers, receive referrals, match the needs of service users with SL Carers and monitor the arrangements
- People using SL services have the opportunity to be part of the SL Carer's family and social networks
- SL Carers use their family home as a resource
- SL agreements provide committed and consistent relationships
- The relationship between the SL Carer and the person placed with them is of mutual benefit
- SL Carers can support up to three people at any one time (two in Wales)
- SL Carers do not employ staff to provide care to the people that they support

SL Carers can provide

- Long term accommodation and support
- Short breaks
- Day time support
- Rehabilitative or intermediate support
- Kinship support where the SL Carer acts as 'extended family' to someone living in their own home