

Shared Lives is an arrangement where individuals and families in local communities (*Shared Lives Carers*) provide accommodation and/or support for people who need some help to live the lives they choose.

Shared Lives Carers can provide a whole range of different supports and services, but whatever the type of service, all Shared Lives arrangements involve mutual sharing of everyday life experiences .



NAAPS UK Ltd  
Suite G06  
The Cotton Exchange  
Old Hall Street  
Liverpool  
L3 9LQ  
  
Tel: 0151 227 3499  
Fax: 0151 236 3590  
email [jackie@naaps.org.uk](mailto:jackie@naaps.org.uk)

Your local contact is:

Company No. 4511426  
Registered Charity No. 1095562

---

About

# Shared Lives



## What makes Shared Lives different?

Shared Lives arrangements are made by an agency (*a Shared Lives Scheme*). The Scheme approves and train the Shared Lives Carers (*SL Carers*), receives referrals, matches the needs of people seeking a service with SL Carers, and monitors the arrangements.

Shared Lives arrangements are very different from more traditional forms of 'care'. The features that make them different include:

- People in Shared Lives arrangements have the opportunity to share in the life of the SL Carers' family and social networks
- SL Carers use their family home as a resource
- Arrangements 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 (*currently 2 in Wales and Scotland*)
- SL Carers do not employ staff to provide care to the people placed with them

Shared Lives Schemes are regulated in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland by the Social Care Regulator for each country.

## Who can be supported through a Shared Lives Arrangement?

All sorts of people are supported in a Shared Lives arrangement including:

- People with a learning disability
- People with mental health problems
- People with a physical disability
- Older people
- Young people in transition into adult services
- People with drug and alcohol problems
- People with health issues

Matching is key to a good Shared Lives arrangement and takes into account the requirements of the individual seeking a service and the skills and knowledge of the SL Carer and practical issues (*where does the SL Carer live and who do they live with? Do they smoke? Have pets? Like football?.....*). It is also important that people like each other and think they can enjoy sharing every day life experiences.

## What sorts of services can SL Carers provide?

Shared Lives arrangements are very flexible and can be tailored to the needs and requirements of each individual. Arrangements can include any of the following, either individually or in combination:

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

## How are arrangements funded?

Shared Lives is a community based service and can be funded from a variety of sources which may include:

- Housing Benefit – to meet the cost of accommodation
- Community care funding - to meet the assessed care needs of the individual
- The personal income of the person supported in the arrangement - to meet the cost of daily living

People funded by local authorities are charged through Fairer Charging

## About NAAPS

NAAPS is a UK charity established to represent the interests of all those involved in delivering very small, individualised, community based services such as Shared Lives (*formerly known as Adult Placement*).

NAAPS Shared Lives members include SL Schemes, individual SL workers and SL Carers.

NAAPS provides its members with:

- A range of favourable insurance products including public liability insurance for SL carers
  - A Code of Practice for members
  - Access to a national network for sharing experience, knowledge and support
  - Conferences, workshops and regional groups
  - A Carer telephone help line
  - Telephone and Email help and support for Schemes
  - NAAPS website with discussion forum
  - Model Policies and Procedures
  - Learning and Development including a range of learning materials specific to Shared Lives
  - National representation with Government Departments and other related organisations
  - Research specific to Shared Lives
  - A website with Discussion Forum
- [www.naaps.co.uk](http://www.naaps.co.uk)**

NAAPS also provides support to organisations wishing to set up a SL Scheme.