



## **Transitioning from Foster Care to Shared Lives – a guide for Carers.**

It may be best for a young person with additional needs who is already living with a foster carer to remain living in that household once they turn 18. This requires foster carers to become Shared Lives providers.

There are real benefits for young people who are in a foster care arrangement to remain there post 18. Transition into adulthood is an anxious and confusing time for all young people, but especially for those who have additional needs and are not living within their birth family. Foster carers that convert to Shared Lives providers can provide the young person with consistency within that nurturing care arrangement, this maintains the attachments that the young person will have built with those carers and their wider family and friends. It means that the young person does not have to move house, and they continue within the home that they are already familiar with. It also means that they can remain in the community where they have spent some of their childhood, which is important for maintaining wider friendships and routines. It can also provide a place to continue to develop Preparing for Adulthood outcomes that would have started within the fostering arrangement, with the consistency of their trusted carers.

### **Next Steps:**

- The young person needs to be assessed by a social worker/social care worker as having eligible care and support needs to be funded as an adult. The young person will be consulted about their wishes, or if deemed necessary through a mental capacity assessment, a decision will be made as to whether it is in their best interest to remain living with the foster carers.
- If the young person does not meet the eligibility criteria for adult social care, then a Staying Put arrangement may be offered.
- Foster Carers need to apply to be assessed and approved at panel as Shared Lives Providers. This will take 3 to 4 months to complete.

### **Assessment**

Foster carers interested in becoming Shared Lives Providers undergo a comprehensive application process, which assesses their home environment and suitability for providing adult care resulting in a portfolio which is then this will hM P



- Care Certificate training – 4 ½ day course consisting of online training via Microsoft Teams, sways (information booklets and knowledge assessments) and a face-to-face session to complete the First Aid aspect of the training.

- An observation booklet and a professional discussion (Supported by your Shared Lives worker).

The above is one off training and carried out over a period of 12 weeks. Ongoing training commitments once approved:

- Prevent- one off training.
- Oliver McGowan mandatory training – one off training
- Training specific to person supported in placement, for example epilepsy.
- Shared Lives training refreshed 3 yearly:
  - Safeguarding Adults and MCA
  - First Aid (1 day course, face to face)
  - Medication
  - Fire Awareness
  - Diligent/manual handling – annual competences
  - Infection Control

Training will focus on support being person centred, therefore encouraging independence and choice and control, whilst also maintaining professional boundaries. You will notice the change in terminology, often a young person/LAC may be n A

You will be fully supported by the Shared Lives team to use CHARMS confidently.

### **Regulation**

- Shared Lives schemes are subject to different regulations to foster care. They also have separate Regulators. Shared Lives is regulated in England by the Care Quality Commission.
- New DBS checks for all adults involved in the care of a young person will need to be carried out.

### **Funding**



if there is a financial appointee or Deputy, the recording will vary.

If the Provider holds any finances or valuable items these are recorded on-

- Petty cash form [Cash in and out recorded, receipts to be held]
- Bank statements and evidence of expenditure.
- Document and valuable held form.

There are payments the providers receive from the individual, each of these payments need to be recorded by the provider-

- Rent received form.
- Household contribution form.
- Mileage

As a provider you may be involved budget management, which could consist of advice and guidance but also reporting concerns and seeking support when necessary. A form to support this is the-

- Statement of income [Incomings and outgoings, remaining disposable income].

The finances may be managed by a third party, in the role as DWP Appointee or Deputy, which could be a corporate appointee, family member/friend of the young person or solicitor. The provider would be expected to support them to carry out their duties and maintain a professional relationship.

Your Shared Lives Worker, during all the four support and monitoring visits throughout the year, will check how finances are being managed including checking the correct forms are being used and completed. These processes protect the young person from financial abuse or the mishandling of their money and protect Shared Lives Providers from allegations of misconduct, it is important that appropriate procedures are followed, and records are kept. Shared Lives Providers who manage the financial affairs of Individuals must seek permission from the Shared Lives Scheme for any purchase of an item costing more than £500 to ensure their protection and to reduce the likelihood of any allegation regarding their financial dealings for Individuals.

- Despite any arrangements you might have had whilst you were a foster carer, your Shared Lives worker will require information about the young person's finances on a regular basis.
- Depending on your level of involvement, it may be necessary to it mam of



- Joining a club

- o **Benefits of positive risk taking**

- Empowering people to pursue ambitions and goals
- Enabling decision making
- Recognising and supporting people's autonomy
- Promoting people's rights in taking risks and making mistakes
- Encouraging self-esteem, self-management, and independence

- **How does shared lives support positive risk taking?**

- The Shared Lives scheme supports adults who have additional support needs and aims to build on life skills for more independent living. Shared lives provide the opportunity for adults to take risks, while being supported to recognise the benefits and potential harm to risk-taking. The scheme aims to achieve this through their essential outcomes for adults. These are;

- Being part of and involved in the community.
- Having the opportunity to develop new skills.
- The opportunity to be as independent as possible.
- Having privacy at home and in their wider life.
- Being treated with dignity, consideration, and respect.
- Support and encouragement to make decisions.

**Further information can be found below:**



Shared Lives carers can support the young person to make decisions, but as the young person is above eighteen years of age, independence and risk taking is encouraged and cannot be prohibited by a Shared Lives carer. Risks that a young person may take following their eighteenth birthday include drinking alcohol, staying out late, and having a relationship. These decisions can be made by the young person. Shared Lives carers can discuss house rules with the young person and discuss alcohol usage, curfews, and partners staying over, however these risks cannot be prohibited.

Becoming a Shared Lives Provider offers Foster Carers a rewarding opportunity to continue supporting a young person's journey into adulthood. By understanding the