

Our shared lives story



Dave and Julie are Shared Lives champions from Leigh.

"My wife Julie and I had been fostering for around 20 years, when one of the children we looked after moved on to a different programme, we wanted to see how we could help in other ways. It was at this point we heard about Shared Lives – we learnt more and thought that this would be ideal for everyone in our household. We contacted Wigan Council's Shared Lives team and found the staff to be helpful and friendly. After going through a simple panel process, we heard about James – after meeting his family, we built a relationship and James began staying with us at weekends until he moved in full time back in November. He gets along wonderfully with everyone and has certainly livened up our lives for the better and both Julie and I enjoy our time with him."

James, who lives with Dave and Julie says: "I like living with Dave and Julie because they take good care of me and take me to interesting places such as National Trust properties and Martin Mere, and to watch wrestling and the theatre!"

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Wigan Council

Shared Lives

Are you looking for an opportunity to make a difference in your community?



Join our team of shared lives champions and support an adult with achieving their goals

The Shared Lives service works with adults who need support due to disability, age, illness or someone who is socially isolated. We recruit Shared Lives champions from all walks of life who will support an adult and help them achieve their goals.

How does it work?

A Shared Lives champion is carefully matched with someone who is needing support to be as independent as possible. During the process we will discuss with you your current commitments and what type of placement would work best for you. These placements include:

- Full time placement - The adult will come to live with you on a long-term basis and you will provide them with a furnished bedroom to allow the person to have their own private space. You will be expected to encourage the individual to be part of the family and share everyday life experiences.
- Respite / short term break - This is where somebody will come to stay overnight or for a longer period. This could be a one off or could be a regular arrangement.
- Emergency support - The support is provided at short notice due to a crisis personally or family related. All emergency placements are managed closely to ensure that both parties remain safe and well
- Day support - You can provide three types of day support. Up to 4 hours, 4-6 hours or 6-8 hours. This time can be spent sharing joint interests or exploring new opportunities in the local and wider community.

Our team will work closely with you to make sure the placement works for everyone, and you are both comfortable.

Who can be a champion?

Our champions come from different types of backgrounds and we focus on the qualities of local people, not their qualifications. You will receive payments that cover some of your time and expenses, free training and have access to a dedicated support team.

What do I need?

- Be over the age of 18
- Have a minimum of 4 hours per week to spare
- Have a spare bedroom (for long term and short break / respite support)
- Be caring and want to develop new relationships.

What could I be expected to do?

- Support people in their local and wider community to engage in meaningful activities, for example swimming, local community groups, cinema
- Promote independence and help develop living skills including cooking, cleaning and managing laundry
- Accompany someone to appointments when necessary
- Support someone to remain safe and well, which may include managing medication or finances/bills.

Why become a Shared Lives champion?

As a Shared Lives champion you will:

- Be giving something back to the community and making a real difference to someone's life
- Reduce isolation for customers and potential champions
- Receive free bespoke training
- Enhance your CV and careers prospects
- Get support from our expert team
- Receive a modest payment for your time and expenses
- Take part in regular activities and get to meet other champions
- Be invited to corporate table events at the JJB
- Get a free DBS check
- Reduced rate Be Well Membership inc Gym, Classes and Pools.

