



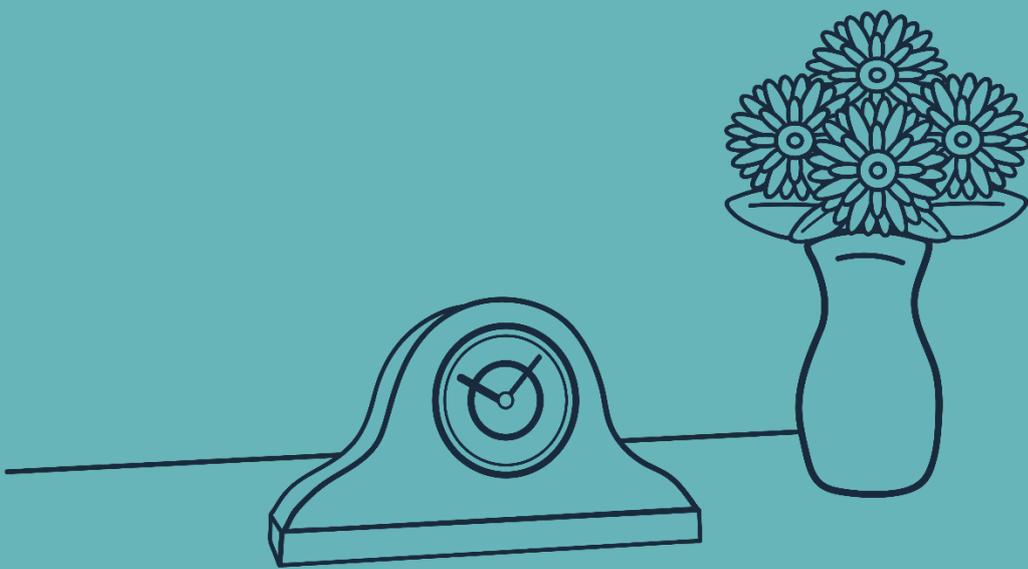
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# Shared Lives in England

Annual report 2017 – 18

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# Lorraine and Keith's story



## **"Everyone has potential"**

On a balmy evening in March 2018, Keith was gazing over a stunning Sri Lankan landscape: the realisation of a life's ambition. Keith was born there, descended from a long line of tea planters, but his family returned to the UK sixty years ago when he was just two. He had always longed to retrace his roots, but as he got older and his life became more restricted through his learning disability, it looked increasingly unrealistic. When he was in his fifties, his mother and father became seriously ill and he was unable to manage living alone.

Lorraine was ready for a change in life. She had enjoyed her long career in childrens' services, but times were changing. She needed a new direction – she had a lovely home to share, a wealth of experience and a continued desire to make a difference. Lorraine became a Shared Lives carer and was matched with Keith.

Since living with Lorraine Keith has flourished. He has developed skills and knowledge in totally new areas: recycling, wood-working and gardening. He has become much more relaxed and sociable. He regularly golfs, and Lorraine struggles to keep up with his circle of friends at the pub in the village where he grew up.

**"He's very easy to be with, and I'm totally comfortable with us sharing our lives. I suppose I look upon him as a younger sibling, although I'm always mindful of professional boundaries too."**

Through Keith, Loraine's grandchildren are developing the awareness to speak up for the vulnerable, and an understanding that "everyone – no matter their impairment - has potential."

Though Loraine's hard work sorting out Keith's passport, paperwork and genealogy, they were finally able to visit Sri Lanka. For Loraine, to see the joy and happiness that being back in his country of birth brought Keith was very special. She called it "**a real privilege**" to be able to enable and share that with him too, a memory that she will always cherish.

She added: "**I am very lucky to have Keith in my life, but then as my Daughter said, Keith's lucky to have you too mum!**"

Keith gets the support he needs to be the best he can be, and Loraine can carry on making a living while making a big difference to someone else's life.

# Introduction



**Glen Garrod, President of ADASS and Executive Director of Adult Care and Community Wellbeing, Lincolnshire County Council**

I'm delighted that thousands more people are enjoying Shared Lives than they were five years ago. Shared Lives carers offer exceptional quality of life to people historically at the margins, and increasingly, every one of us, as we live longer with more complex conditions. The opportunity to create a society which is more inclusive, resilient, healthy and kind has never been greater. Across England, local authorities are responsible for £20bn of public money and I wholeheartedly encourage every leader to invest, grow and diversify their Shared Lives scheme. I hope you will be as inspired by the opportunities for Shared Lives in the future of our health and social care, outlined in this report, as I am.

# Foreword



Alex Fox, CEO



Richard Jones, Chair  
of Trustees

Our report tells the story of what the Shared Lives community has achieved not just in the last year, but over the last five years: it is an encouraging and uplifting page turner. Through our work we are privileged to be able to encounter the transformative experiences of individual Shared Lives families, as well as seeing the ‘big picture’ of the incredible growth of Shared Lives over the past five years.

Shared Lives has again topped the CQC ratings as the highest quality form of social care. As quality has increased, so has quantity, with more people supported this year than ever before. Local leadership and collaboration in key areas have shown that targeted investment and commitment can help many more people enjoy care and a richer life in an ordinary family home.

Whilst Shared Lives is still predominantly used for supporting people with learning disabilities, focused development for specific support needs is diversifying the model – reflected in increased numbers of people with a physical impairment and those with mental ill health enjoying the support of people like Lorraine, who is one of over 9,000 Shared Lives carers.

Shared Lives is increasingly showing it can complement traditional forms of care – giving family carers valuable relief and support – with day support being the biggest growing type of support arrangement. Some areas, such as the North East, have shown particularly strong growth in this area.



Yet the pressures of the wider policy landscape are impossible to escape, and just as last year saw the emergence of a postcode lottery where Shared Lives provision in some areas shrank in response to local budget cuts - this years' data shows a decline in some regions too.

Shared Lives has grown by over a third in the last five years. But growth has been patchy, with strong increases after specific investment from government and partners and stagnation when austerity began to take effect on local social care budgets. Overall numbers remain far too low for a model of care and way of life that demonstrates such potential. Investment in Shared Lives can delivery drastically better outcomes for less money, and the time to do it is now.

We are pleased to share with you some of the numbers, words and images that comprise the latest chapter in our Shared Lives story.

# Key messages

- Shared Lives is officially the highest quality form of social care. This year The CQC rated 96% of 132 schemes as good or outstanding – the best ever rating.
- This quality is scalable - Shared Lives has grown by 6%, supporting 740 more people this year than last, when budgetary pressures leading to workforce reductions in some schemes had constrained growth. Shared Lives now supports 12350 people in total.
- Where specific regions show determination and partnership, Shared Lives flourishes. In the north west there was an 11% increase in the number of people supported in Shared Lives over the last year, where GMCA and Shared Lives Plus have partnered specifically to develop the service.
- Pressures in the social care landscape are still having an impact, and the postcode lottery identified last year still exists. The east of England lost 100 people being supported in Shared Lives – a 13% decline, whereas the south east saw a strong surge of 15% more people in Shared Lives overall.
- Shared Lives is still mainly used for learning disabilities but focused development work for specific types of support needs is diversifying the model to meet the developing challenges in 21<sup>st</sup> century England. The number of people using Shared Lives for a physical impairment is up by 34% and people with mental ill health in Shared Lives households have increased by 27% in the last year, following our development project for people with mental ill health.
- Shared Lives is now showing it can complement traditional forms of care – giving family carers valuable relief and support – with day support up by 15% in the last year - the biggest growing type of support arrangement. Some places have shown particularly good work in this area, with the north east achieving 70 more day support arrangements.



- In five years, Shared Lives has grown by more than a third – 34%. But growth has been patchy, with strong increases after specific investment from government and partners such as Big Lottery Funding, and stagnation when austerity began to take effect on local social care budgets.

## How you can support Shared Lives

- Overall numbers remain far too low for a model of care with such potential. We call on national leaders of health and social care to recognise and support Shared Lives as the future of a more effective, human and sustainable care system.
- Shared Lives has grown to help more people enjoy a richer life where there has been concerted effort and collaboration to expand it. Greater Manchester Combined Authority have committed to increasing their Shared Lives offer so that it comprises 15% of all social care provision for people with learning disabilities. We call on all other areas to follow this example and set their own 15% target heading.
- We call on local authorities to recognise the potential for Shared Lives beyond people with learning disabilities, and to create a plan to diversify their Shared Lives offer.
- Our campaign achievements on behalf of our membership have helped to strengthen the Shared Lives model. An empowered, enfranchised carer and scheme workforce is vital for sustainability and driving up quality of Shared Lives care. We call on all schemes to facilitate Shared Lives carers to join Shared Lives Plus, our national movement for shared living.



## Show the power of shared living

### My Shared Life tracker

Built with the help of people who live in Shared Lives, My Shared Life is an online tracker tool for measuring outcomes for people in Shared Lives with quantifiable data. It uses numbers to tell powerful stories about how well people are living.

It works by gathering answers from people supported in Shared Lives to questions in six areas of well-being: family and personal relationships, involvement in the local

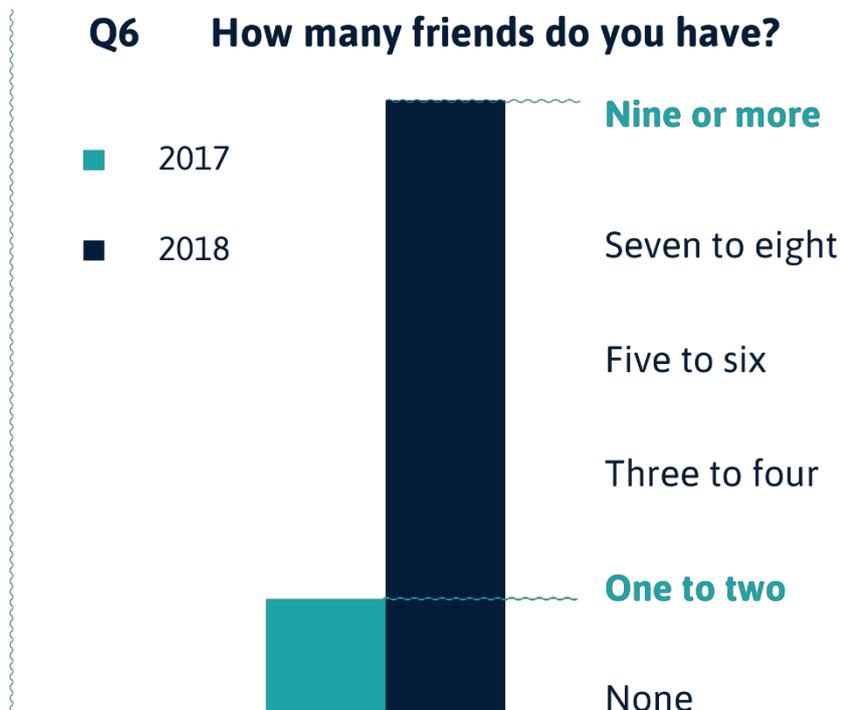
community, occupation and participation, control over daily life, physical well-being and emotional well-being. It then presents these answers in tables and graphs. At the end of 2018, My Shared Life showed that:

- 97% of people in Shared Lives felt they were part of the family most or all of the time
- 93% of people felt that their social life had improved and 83% of people in Shared Lives it easier to have friends
- 94% felt more involved with their community
- 83 felt that they had more choice in their daily life
- 79% felt their physical health had improved
- 85% felt their emotional health had improved.

## David's progress

My Shared Life can also show how well an individual in Shared Lives is living. David Ward has lived with Shared Lives carers Stephen and Richard since December 2016 after his elderly parents could no longer care for him. Stephen and Richard pulled out all the stops to provide one-on-one care, support and reassurance for David and since living with them he has gone from strength to strength. My Shared Life shows how, In David's own estimation, his wellbeing has improved dramatically in different areas of life.

From having only one friend, with Stephen and Richard's support, in just over two years David has made friendships with nine more people. As his social life has expanded he's met other people in Shared Lives as well as getting to know Stephen and Richard's extended friends and family.

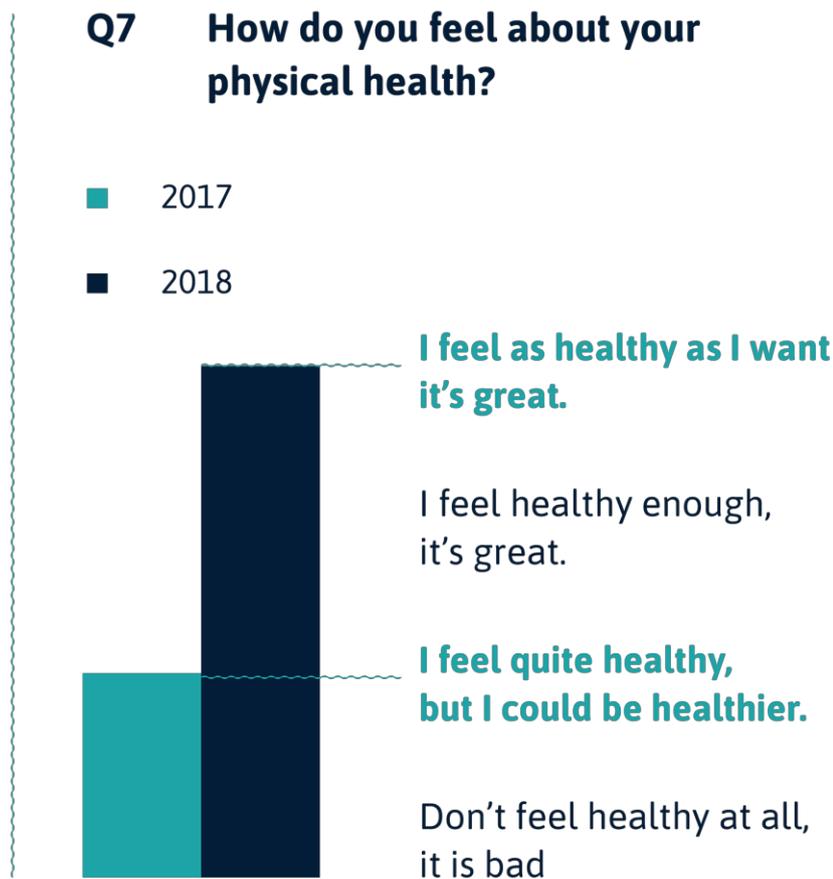


David’s health has improved dramatically, and his assessment of his own physical wellbeing jumping up two categories in a year. Stephen and Richard made this possible by encouraging David to eat a healthier diet and exercise regularly. David is now no longer diabetic.

David said:

**“I went for walks every day, used my exercise bike and went swimming.”**

Stephen said: “When David came to us he was 17 stone, he now weighs nine! Before living with us he really struggled with a healthy diet and exercise. After us encouraging him, he became very self-motivated and disciplined at it.”



Stephen said:

**“Being able to see the change in David visually, how much he has improved, how much more energy he has now is so rewarding. David’s brother said we’d saved his life, and hearing something like that from a family member is obviously amazing.”**



## **Stronger together – Shared Lives Plus membership**

Over 150 schemes across the UK have joined us as Members of Shared Lives Plus, the UK Network for Shared Lives and Homeshare. Our members are Shared Lives schemes, Shared Lives carers, and Homeshare schemes. We have a unique overview of Shared Lives which informs the support and guidance we provide to our members, whilst also being a voice for Shared Lives and Homeshare with governments and other decision makers.

We now have 5,618 Shared Lives carer members, with a net growth of 119 members (or 2%) since last year. There were 744 newly-joined members over the year.

### **Membership support**

Our members benefit from a unique offer which includes UK-wide support and guidance, specialist mortgage, insurance and legal advice tailored for Shared Lives

carers. We have a track record of raising awareness to benefit everyone involved in Shared Lives and Homeshare, here's our top list of campaign wins:

## Campaign successes

### *Fairness*

Pay campaign – in 2018, we supported Shared Lives carers to talk to their councils about rates of pay and terms and conditions and secured a pay increase in Newcastle, amongst other areas.

### *Change in rules around Ordinary Residence written into the Care Act*

This meant that local authorities are not able to place people out of county and then not continue their funding any more.

### *Qualifying care allowance*

We worked closely with HMRC to advocate for Shared Lives carers to be included – and now they can claim tax relief.

### *Universal Credit*

We are currently working with government colleagues for changes to how Universal Credit is being rolled out, including the restriction of housing costs and income. This is ongoing.

*“Your support was invaluable when I was going through a messy divorce and trying to buy a new house. You helped me to keep working – I can't thank you enough.”*

Sarah, Shared Lives carer, Dorset

## Winning a landmark case

With help from our Shared Lives carer support team, one of our members won a landmark case with the local government and social care Ombudsman.

A year of persistent campaigning and pressure from our member and guidance from our support team, has seen her win a pay increase backdated to November 2016 – and an apology - from her local authority.

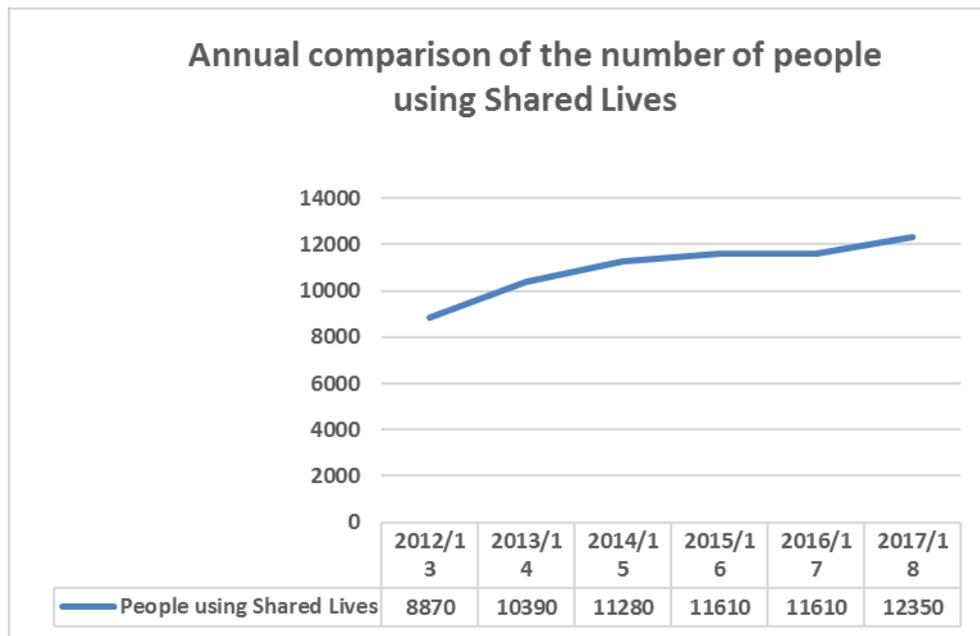
For at least six months, our member was being paid a band three rate despite Yvonne, who she supports, having band four needs. With the advice of our support team, our member contacted the Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman suggested that the Shared Lives carer be paid a backdated sum of band 4 support pay and that the council should apologise for its slow handling of the complaint and attempt to deflect responsibility onto the scheme. We were delighted with this outcome – it shows what our members can achieve with the support of our dedicated carer support team.

# Shared Lives in numbers

## Number of people using Shared Lives

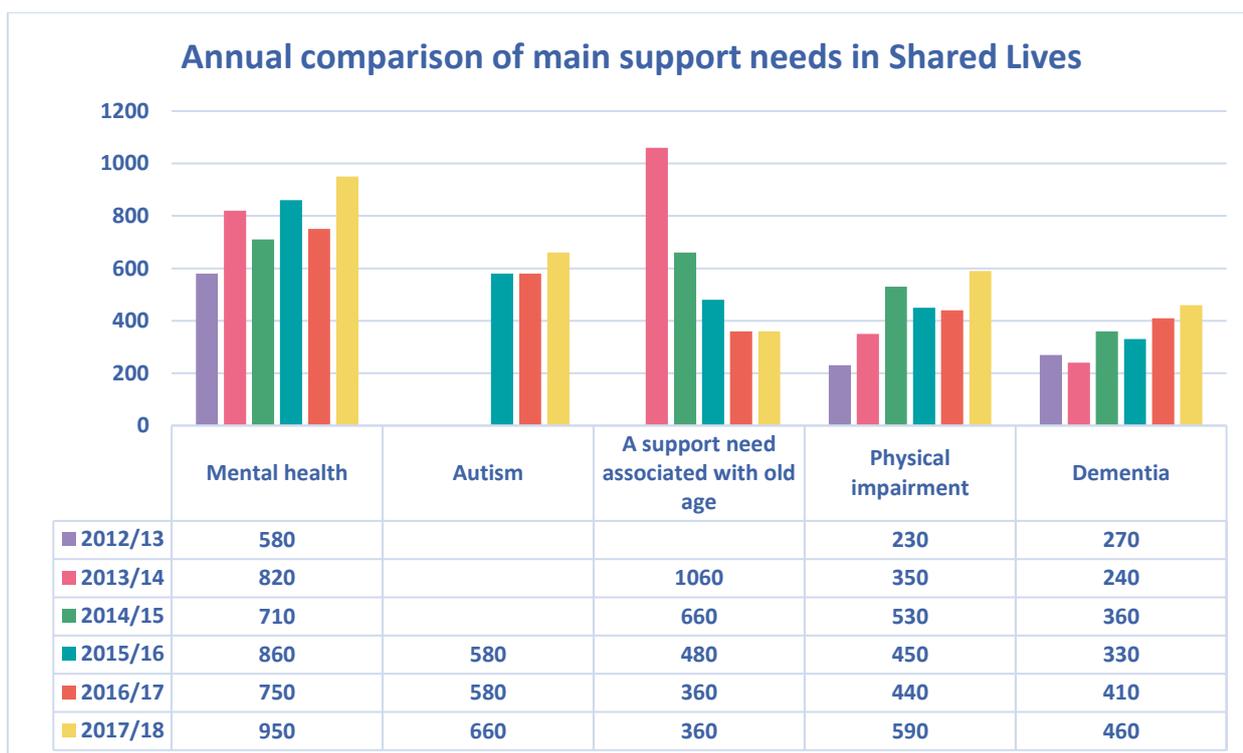
Shared Lives has grown by 6% in the last year, supporting 740 more people than the year before. Over the last five years, Shared Lives has grown by more than a third – 34% - but there have been plateaus, such as the one between 2015 and 2016, when social care budget cuts effected reductions in scheme workforces. These show that Shared Lives is not immune to the wider pressures on social care and that it needs investment to realise its true potential.



## Who uses Shared Lives?

Shared Lives has an established and inspiring track record of supporting people with learning disabilities. 300 more people with a learning disability are sharing their lives since last year.

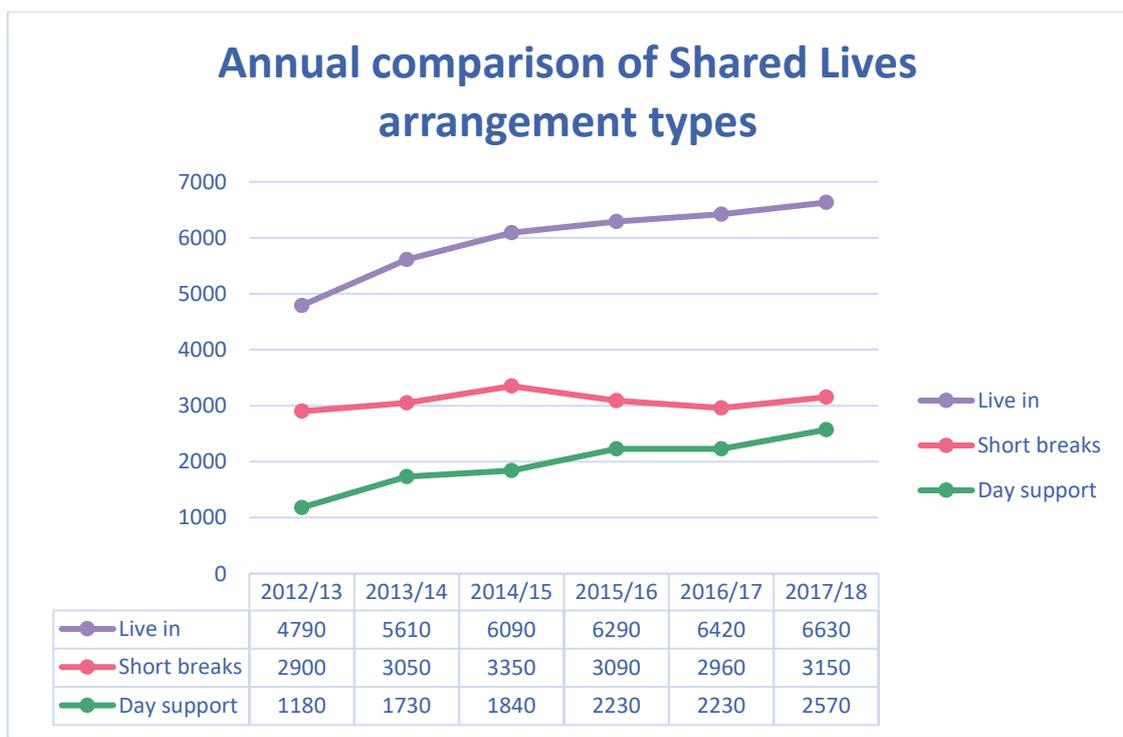
Many areas have made deliberate, targeted efforts to diversify their Shared Lives offer and as a result are beginning to provide excellent outcomes for people with different types of support needs. The number of people using Shared Lives for a physical impairment is up by 34% and people with mental ill health in Shared Lives households have increased by 27%.





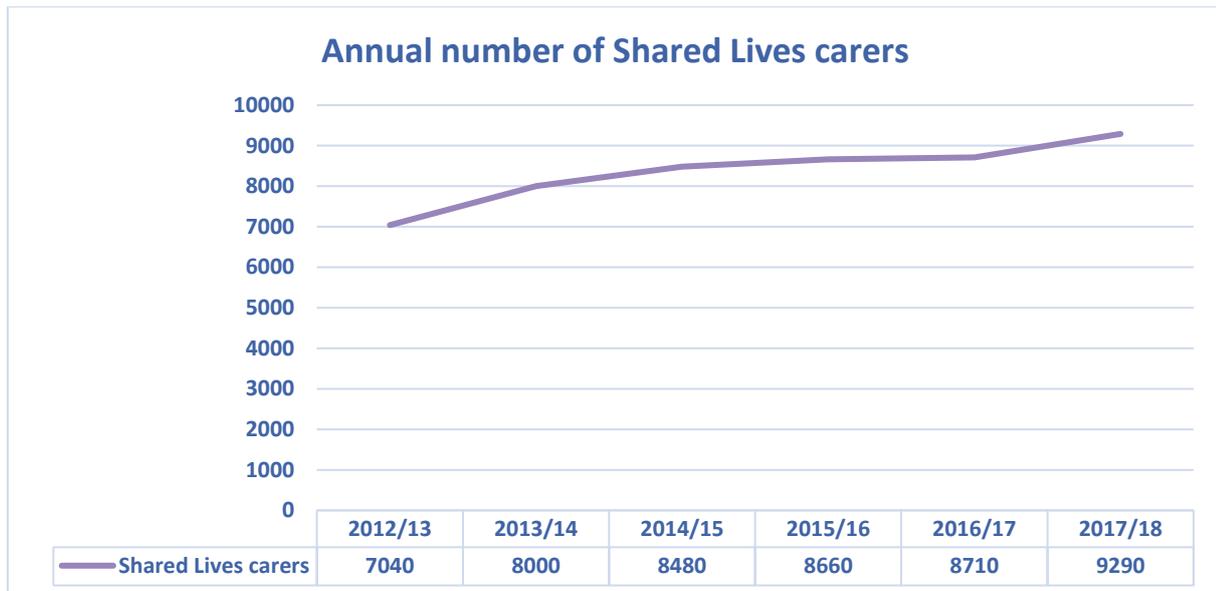
## How often people use Shared Lives

Shared Lives is increasingly giving family carers valuable relief and support – people accessing Shared Lives in day support arrangements is up by 15% and use of Shared Lives for short breaks has increased.

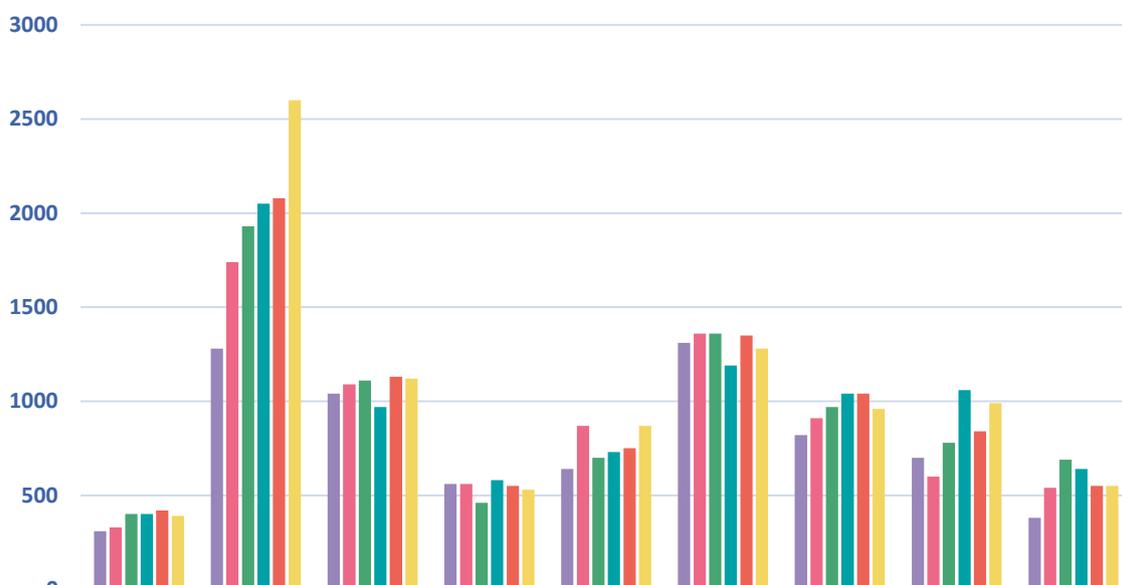


## Recruitment of Shared Lives carers

Shared Lives carer numbers have grown by 580 in the last year, the largest increase since 2014. Shared Lives carers are the lifeblood of our movement and there can be no strategy to grow Shared Lives without carer recruitment and nurture at its heart.



### Annual regional comparison of Shared Lives carer numbers



	North East	North West	Yorkshire & Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	South East	South West	London	East of England
■ 2012/13	310	1280	1040	560	640	1310	820	700	380
■ 2013/14	330	1740	1090	560	870	1360	910	600	540
■ 2014/15	400	1930	1110	460	700	1360	970	780	690
■ 2015/16	400	2050	970	580	730	1190	1040	1060	640
■ 2016/17	420	2080	1130	550	750	1350	1040	840	550
■ 2017/18	390	2600	1120	530	870	1280	960	990	550

## Regional differences - Shared Lives around the country

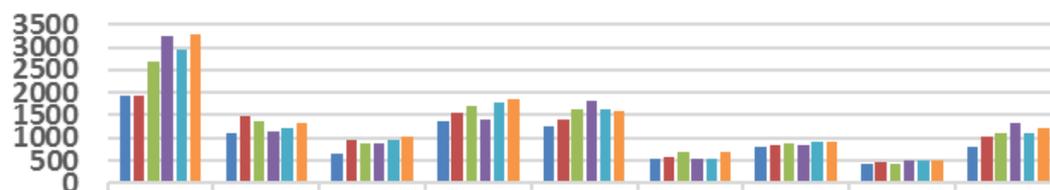
Shared Lives is offered in almost all areas of England. As more and more areas create strategic plans to boost their social care provision by growing Shared Lives, nearly all regions have grown this year. There has also been a smoothing of the regional differences that in previous years led to a postcode lottery for Shared Lives provision. However, there are still notable inequities between different regions, where local leadership and targeted investment to grow and diversify Shared Lives is varied:

- In the North West 330 people or 11% more people are supported in Shared Lives that last year.
- There was also great proportional growth in the South East, where 240 people or 15% more people are sharing their lives this year.

However, in some places there was a shrinkage:

- In the East of England – 100 fewer people (13%) were supported in Shared Lives compared to last year.
- In the North East 70 more people (700%) accessed Shared Lives in day support arrangements.

### Regional comparison of Shared Lives use

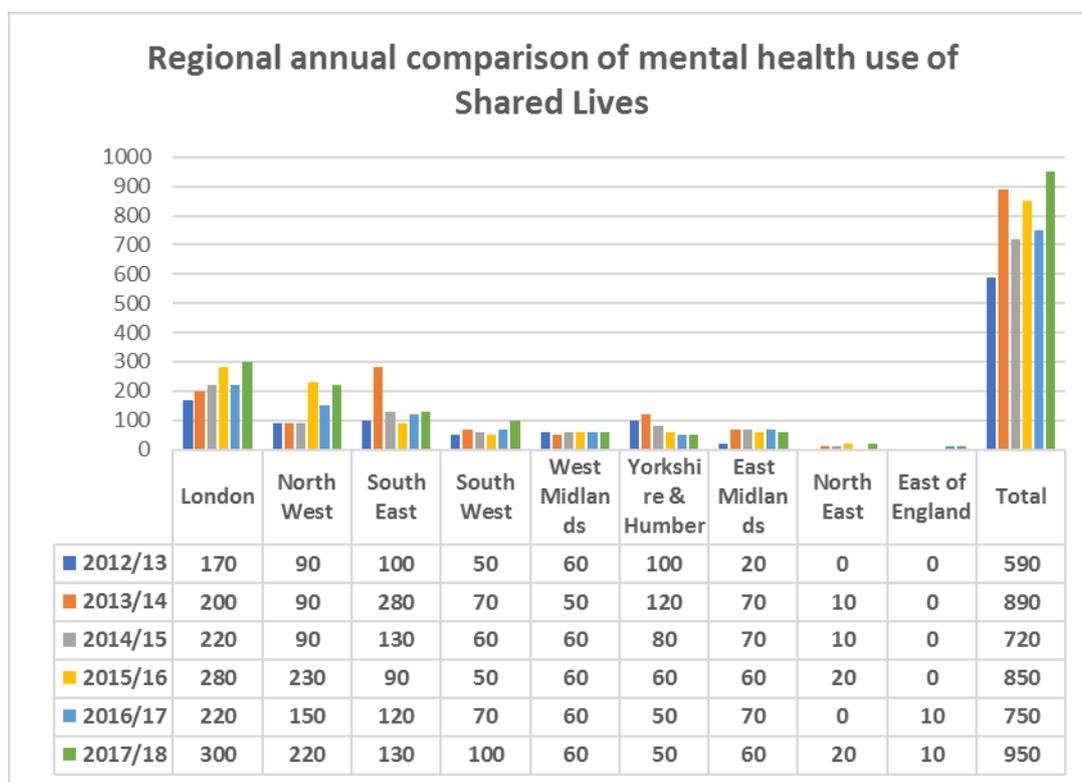


	North West	Yorkshire & Humber	East Midlands	South East	South West	East of England	West Midlands	North East	London
2012/13	1940	1090	660	1380	1240	550	820	410	810
2013/14	1930	1480	940	1560	1410	580	850	480	1010
2014/15	2670	1360	860	1710	1610	680	860	430	1090
2015/16	3240	1130	870	1400	1800	520	850	500	1320
2016/17	2960	1210	950	1770	1610	530	900	500	1100
2017/18	3280	1330	1020	1850	1580	700	900	510	1200

# Shared Lives for different support needs

## Shared Lives for mental health

Shared Lives, with its emphasis on relationships and careful matching, is proven to be a holistic, humane and reliable way of supporting people with mental ill health – which is a growing challenge in our society. After our specialist project to develop the model for this type of need, the number of people using Shared Lives for mental health has increased by 200 people.



## Sharing a steady home with more purpose

Stewart moved in with his Shared Lives Carers Chris and Doug in Hampshire eight and a half years ago. He had previously been in hospital for four years, and once he left he struggled to find permanent accommodation. Stewart was initially placed into hostel accommodation, but was removed from two placements, before finding Chris and Doug, through the local scheme. Chris says, **“We thought we could help him,**

**because he was such a nice guy but couldn't find a decent environment for himself to be in."**

Once he was living with Chris and Doug, Stewart began to get back in touch with his family, who he had previously lost contact with. He says, **"I didn't even see my Dad until I lived here (with Chris and Doug). Shared Lives has helped me build a bridge with him."**

One of Stewart's biggest passions is BMX bikes, and lucky for him Chris' friend happened to own a bike store. She joked that **"I told my friend that Stewart couldn't work there. Because he doesn't like spending too much time in one room. But he is more than happy to go down and help set up bikes."** Stewart enjoys this, **"setting up the bikes is great fun"** and that he enjoys seeing his hard work place on display for all the customers.



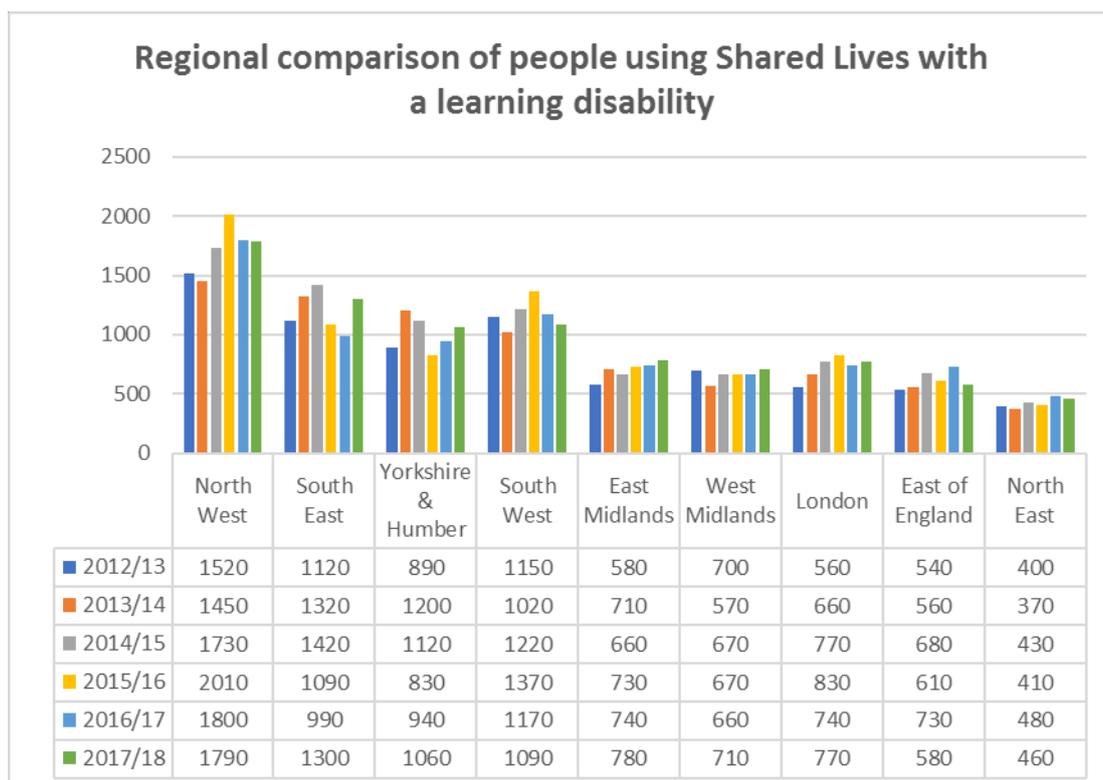
Chris summarised Shared Lives beautifully: **"The thing Shared Lives does best, is give purpose. It allows people to feel as if they're contributing in some way. For him I think life has become so much more."**

Shared Lives has greatly helped improve Stewart's mental health, it has afforded him an environment that allows him to feel comfortable, with people he likes and trusts. But has also given him a sense of purpose and has allowed him to pursue his passion and reconnect with his family.



## Shared Lives for people with learning disabilities

Shared Lives is safe, consistent and person-centred, and has a rich history of supporting people with a learning disability to live well. This year there are 300 more people with a learning disability sharing their lives compared to last.



### An expansive life - Stephen, Pat and Alan

Stephen is 61 and lives with diabetes and a learning disability. When Stephen’s father died and he was left to live on his own, his life took a turn for the worse.

Stephen struggled with mental ill health and he was financially defrauded by members of his family. He was unable to do many of the things that make up an ordinary life. He couldn’t keep himself or his flat clean, ate badly and spent his days alone watching television.

When Stephen was introduced to his future Shared Lives carer Pat and her husband Alan, both parties decided they wanted to live together: Stephen said: “I came here

because I like the place and the atmosphere. I was scared at first because it was a strange place, then I got more confident to stay.”

The life change for Pat wasn't seamless either, as she committed to sharing almost all aspects of her life with a new person, with different habits and personality traits.

**“When he first came to us – Stephen swore like a trooper!”** said Pat.

As Stephen explained: **“We're from totally different backgrounds.”**

Gradually, Stephen's life expanded in all directions. With the support of Pat and Alan, he started to realise his potential and participate in home, family and community life. He is a student on a catering course at college, he attends wood working classes and is a regular attendee at his local football club. He has enjoyed his first ever holidays with Pat and Allen - to Turkey and Cyprus, and has made friends at college and social clubs including Jenny, who he goes to the cinema with. He said: **“I never used to go out, never had any friends. Since I came here I go to church and the Tuesday club – I've got loads of friends now.”**



As his cooking skills have improved Stephen has developed a much healthier lifestyle, he has lost four stone and his diabetes is now under control.

**“He should be very proud of himself,”** Pat said.

But Pat and her husband Alan have also gained so much from their relationship with Stephen. Alan and Stephen often go to the pub together and enjoy conversations about local history and heritage. **“Now, they are like Darby and Joan,”** Pat says of Alan and Stephen, **“we're company for each other.”**

## Shared Lives for young people

Shared Lives offers many unique benefits for young people. It matches them to a family or individual who celebrates that young person's unique gifts and identities. It helps them to get involved in local youth and leisure opportunities, so they develop their strengths and build on this. It gives them safe spaces and communities where they can make mistakes, learn lessons and forge their own characters and assets. It's only in recent years that Shared Lives schemes have started to support young people from the age of 16. More and more schemes and local authorities are discovering how Shared Lives can benefit young people.

### Young people thrive on the responsibility and opportunity to show what they can do – Sharon's perspective

"Peter and I have three people living with us. We are keen advocates for maximizing an individual's potential. We decided to work in this way because of our beliefs and the careers we had previously. Little did we know then just how successful it would be and how much young people wanted this type of placement.

Our house is viewed by all who live here as a shared house and we all have a responsibility to cook, clean and carry out chores. Our young people are working on independent travel, work and money skills and all have an expectation, set by themselves, to work to their abilities and to strive towards as much independence as possible. We find that young people thrive on the responsibility and opportunity to showcase what they can do.

Several of our young people have grown up in care where opportunities may have been limited. With us, they learn about the adult world and what it can offer. Shared Lives enables us to offer young people a family setting but with an outlook that they may leave one day and enjoy the independence they have learnt. **Their successes are endless**, from small steps of carrying out a task without support to major achievements such as securing work or their own accommodation. We currently support two young people to volunteer within the National Trust and as gardeners in our local park. We are very proud of all that they do!

**“One of the main reasons why we love Shared Lives is the flexibility it offers to enable us to wear ‘several hats’ in one day to enable to support our young people in the most tailored and person-centred way possible.”**

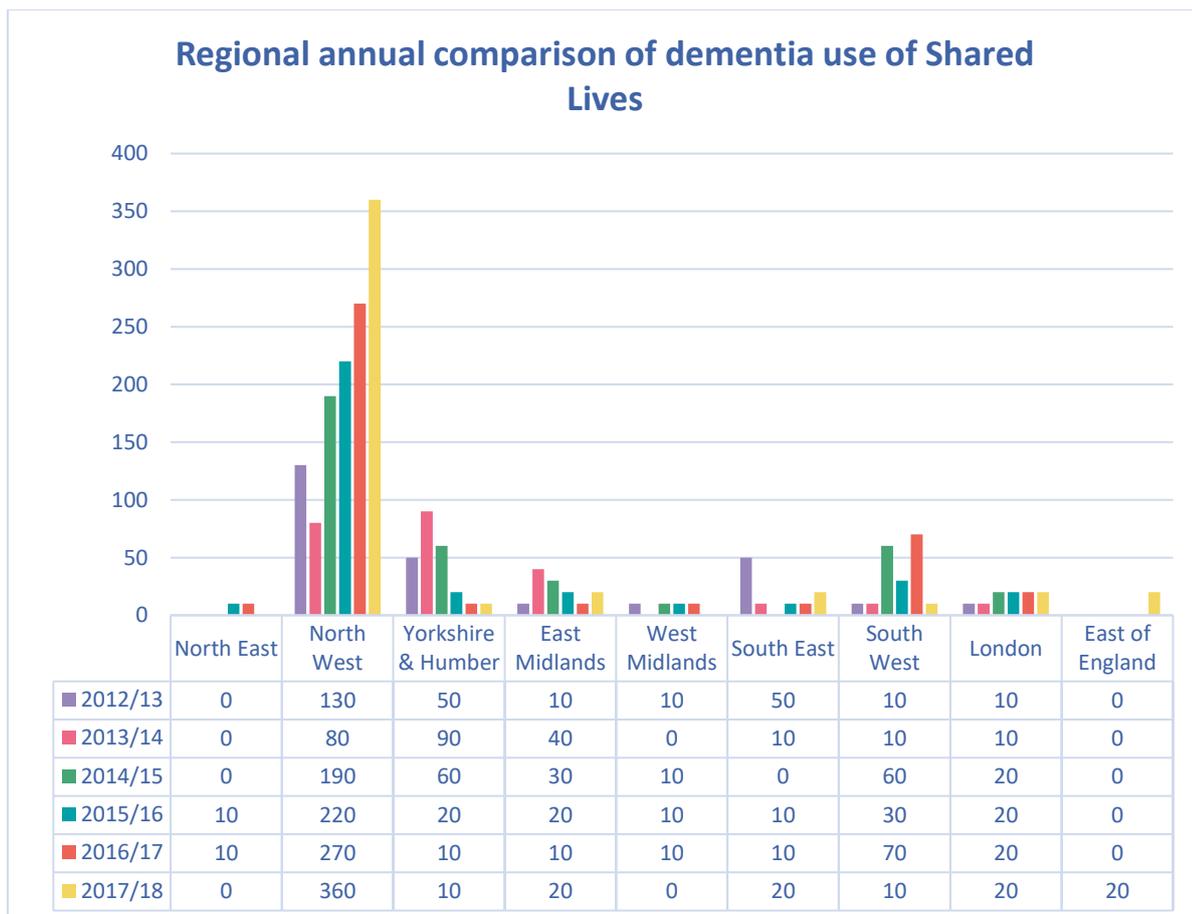
SCIE recently released a film about Kurtis, 18 who lives with Lyndsey and Mark, Shared Lives carers, watch here

<https://www.scie.org.uk/strengths-based-approaches/videos/supporting-young-people>



## Shared Lives for dementia day support

Shared Lives offers key advantages as a way of supporting more people with dementia. Shared Lives carers are perfectly placed to offer respite support to family carers, with Shared Lives carers able to reduce social isolation and the chance of breakdown for those carers and to help increase their general wellbeing significantly. People suffering from dementia experience increased independence, wellbeing and personal choice, and are less likely to experience isolation and confusion in when they have got to know their Shared Lives carer and maintain existing relationships and connections in the community.



## “Next to me, Stella is the one who knows Alan best” - Alan, Jeanne and Stella

Alan was described by his wife Jeanne, both from Gloucestershire, as ‘A kind, interesting and a very generous man’ who enjoyed ‘a structured life’. Jeanne said that this structure was ‘a very big part of who he was’ and was something that defined his life. But in 2008 Alan developed Vascular Dementia and began to require external care, so that Jeanne could have some respite.

For Jeanne it was important for her peace of mind that Alan was looked after by the right person, she says “It had to be right, because he was mine”. That is when Alan met Stella, his Shared Lives carer, who cared for him when Jeanne needed a break. Jeanne said: “I knew right away she was the one. We got through it, with the help and support we received from Stella”.



Stella said Alan always liked to feel useful. He would always help her in any way she needed around the house. One of his favourite activities was walking Stella’s dogs, who always loved to sit on his knee. Stella and Jeanne still joke about how Alan became famous for carrying around dog biscuits at all times.

Stella captured the bond that people in Shared Lives have with one another when she described how Alan ‘became a part of the family’ and that all her family and friends “Enjoyed his company – he was really interesting to listen to, he had such amazing stories”.

Jeanne said: “Next to me, Stella is the one who knows Alan best, as she spent the most time with him. Not quite as much as me as you weren’t married to him!” Jeanne and Stella feel that they’ll always be friends, and Jeanne hopes that Stella will look after her if she gets dementia!



About Shared Lives, Jeanne said: "It's the very words, Shared Lives. You're sharing your life. Alan met so many people that weren't in his life before. They came into his life at such an important time for Alan, and for me".

## Shared Lives for autism

Sharisse, Shared Lives carer and John, 60, share their lives together in their Birmingham home. Their life shows that families can come in all different shapes and sizes – and that the right mixture of personalities lead to rich and vibrant home. Sharisse said:



“John has non - verbal autism and requires fulltime support with his

daily life. It was interesting: as soon as John and I met I knew that we could make this work. We just clicked, straight away. We had a few meetings, and then he stayed for a couple of weekends, and we’ve lived together ever since.

“At first John’s parents struggled to get used to living apart from him after them sharing their lives for so long. But now they pop in for a cuppa and he spends some weekends with them too. I’m forever sending them photos of where we’ve been or what we’ve been doing with the day. It’s a lovely arrangement. In fact, on John’s mum’s birthday I cooked Sunday lunch and we all spent the day here together. We communicate regularly and I know that, they are very reassured that he is in a happy and safe home. John feels like a brother really.”

**“There are times when being a Shared Lives carer can be intense. It’s like anything, you have to learn and develop your experience but that only comes by actually doing it.**

“I really think John would have had such a different life if Shared Lives had been available to them earlier. That’s what Shared Lives does, it provides people with choices and a more fulfilled life.

**“Our house is a vibrant home. We get on each other’s nerves at times, just like any other family, and there are chores to be done and a routine to be followed, but we also have a lot of fun and laughter too.”**

## Doing it together – Ambassadors’ charter, test and experience

Eight people with lived experience of Shared Lives are ambassadors for Shared Lives. They use their experience to talk about shared living in events up and down the country. They also work to engage people who have used Shared Lives and ensure that they have a voice.

Our ambassadors opened our latest conference, led our parliamentary reception and facilitated various workshops in the largest annual gathering and learning event for Shared Lives. There they described how they felt Shared Lives had helped them personally and how the model can be used to promote equality and diversity:

“People are not just doing things all the time for me and that makes me happy”

### James Rosborough, Ambassador

“I have been living in a Shared Lives arrangement with Andy and his family for nearly eight years. Before this I lived in a specialist home for over 20 years.

I now like the freedom I have, to do the things that I enjoy, when I want to do them, just like most other people. I can choose to go out, without telling anyone, and meet friends in my favourite café. I can do most things for myself, but can I get help when I need it. People are not doing things for me all the time and this makes me happy.



I now have my own house and garden, something I never thought would happen to me. I can choose to go to Karate, order a pizza or go to the pub, with or without Andy.

I like feeling a part of things, being a Shared Lives Ambassador, giving talks to help people know more about epilepsy, working with our social enterprise, Local Social and visiting lots of new places. I like helping people and they let me do it now. People listen to my opinions and ideas, although I am not always right, this also makes me happy.

Epilepsy does not now stop me from doing anything and my health has improved since being in Shared Lives. I am very, very proud to be a Shared Lives Ambassador.

## The Ambassadors' test

The Ambassador's Test is a charter for people who use Shared Lives, written by people who use Shared Lives. It encourages people to think about six areas:

- My Shared Lives scheme is honest about life in Shared Lives
- I am respected as an adult
- My right to a private life is respected
- My life is fun and interesting!
- I have the right to make choices
- I am an equal part of my Shared Lives family

People who receive support can use the test to:

- check that their shared life is good
- Think about what other things would make Shared Lives better
- Get more involved with their Shared Lives scheme
- Work with the scheme to help it pass the Ambassadors' Test

## Methodology

For 2017 - 18, the State of Shared Lives survey received returns from 88 Shared Lives schemes (67%) which provides an accurate snapshot of Shared Lives schemes throughout the country. We have used the data to provide a detailed estimate of the overall size and diversity of the sector between 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018. Live-in support is defined as that provided or commissioned by social services or an NHS health partner under Section 75 Agreements and must be part of a care /support plan following an assessment of need.

## Acknowledgments and thank you to all Shared Lives schemes

Shared Lives Plus would like to thank Shared Lives schemes for participating in the survey:

North East: Durham, South Tyneside, Sunderland, Newcastle, Northumberland,

North West: Aspire (Salford), Blackpool, Bolton, Cheshire East, Halton, Lancashire, MacIntyre (Warrington), Manchester, Miocare Oldham Care & Support Shared Lives, Persona Shared Lives, Possibilities, PSS, Stockport Independent Options, Tameside, United Response Shared Lives, Vivo Care Choices Shared Lives Coronation Centre, Vivo Care Choices, Wigan

Yorkshire: Avalon North Yorkshire, Avalon York, Barnsley, Bradford, Calderdale, East Riding, Hull, Kirklees, Leeds, Sheffield, St Annes, Wakefield,

West Midlands: Ategi Shared Lives Herefordshire, Birmingham, Dudley, PSS Shared Lives Midlands, Sandwell Shared Lives Scheme, Telford and Wrekin, Walsall,

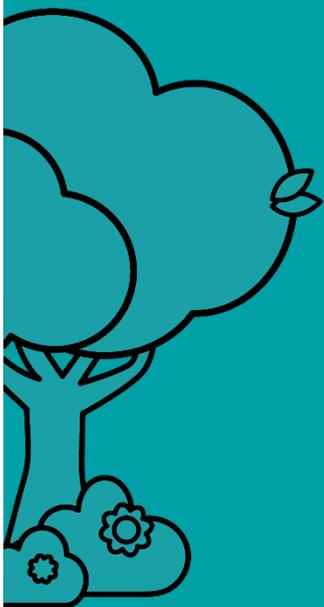
East Midlands: Derby City, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Northampton



South East: Brighton and Hove, Ategi Bucks, Choice Support, East Sussex, Grace Eyre, Hampshire, Kent, Medway, Oxford, Portsmouth, Reading, Southampton, Surrey Choices, West Berkshire APSL, West Sussex

South West: Ategi Gloucester, Bournemouth and Dorset, Bristol, Gloucestershire, Poole, Shared Lives South West, Somerset, Swindon, Virgin Care (Bath and North East Somerset), Wiltshire

London: Brent, Bromley, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Haringey, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Lewisham, Newham and Havering, Richmond, Royal Greenwich, SharedLives@YourHealthCare.Org, Sutton, Waltham Forest, Wandsworth  
East of England: Bedford, Cambridgeshire, Ategi Thurrock, Essex, Guideposts Norfolk and Suffolk, Guideposts Herts, Southend





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