



CYSYLLTU BYWYDAU CYMRU SHARED LIVES

SHARED NEWS – CYSYLLTU NEWYDDION

The Shared Lives Carer Newsletter for Wales

‘HOT OFF THE PRESS’

If you are reading this you can be pleased in knowing that you are reading the very first all Wales Adult Placement / Shared Lives Carer Newsletter.

A long time coming, some of you may say, but its arrived, it’s here and it’s yours. The aim of the newsletter is to bring together AP Carers from across the whole of Wales and to give them a mouth piece to share their views, experiences and stories. It will be run by AP/SL Carers for AP/SL Carers.

If you have anything to say about AP/SL in Wales tell it to Miriam Merkova, she will ensure it makes it into the next edition. For the time being Miriam is happy to care-take the newsletter and to assist in its production. You may also have ideas about sections, headings, competitions, layout, adverts, sponsorship and subjects for the newsletter, again let Miriam know. Above all it just needs to be about what AP/SL Carers in Wales want it to be about and perhaps also about helping AP/SL Carers come together and meet up on some common ground to share their experiences of AP/SL in Wales.

DECEMBER
2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Shared Lives Week 2012
- NEW CARER REPRESENTATIVE
- Shared Lives in The News
- AM Speaks to Shared Lives Carers
- New Chair from West Wales
- Young People & Transition
- Events & Meetings

Dyma’r cylchgrawn cyntaf o Cysylltu Newyddion – beth am gael erthyglau Cymraeg?

Rydym yn wirioneddol angen Galluogwyr/Gofalwyr Cymreig eu hiaith – ambell dro, mae defnyddwyr gwasanaeth Cymraeg eu hiaith yn ei chael yn anodd i gyfathrebu a thrwy hynny gael eu labelu fel unigolion gyda ymddygiadau sy’n herio’r gwasanaeth.

Mae hefyd wrth gwrs yn hawl dynol i gael gwasanaeth yn eich iaith eich hun. Felly dowch yn eich blaenau – storïau Cymraeg i Miriam plis.....

Shared Lives Week 2012

In October, Shared Lives Plus introduced the first annual Shared Lives week in the UK. A week-long, year on year celebration of the success of Shared Lives and the services provided by Shared Lives Carers. Up and down the UK Shared Lives Carers came together and organised events in their community. Here in Wales the week was celebrated by parties, press campaigns, open days and coffee mornings.

AM speaks to Carers from Sout Wales

In **South Wales**, Shared Lives Carer, Pat Patten, invited AM Mark Drakeford, Chair of the Health & Social Care Committee at a coffee morning in her home in Ely.



Whilst in **Bridgend** Shared Lives staff and carers held a coffee morning inviting local Care Management Teams.



In **Porthmadog**, the Gwynedd and Anglesey Shared Lives Scheme held an open day for Shared Lives Carers and service users. The event was opened by Councillor Wyn Williams – Social Services Portfolio leader.



The Councillor thanked in his opening address the “Diligence, selfless commitment and hard work of Shared Lives Carers to ensure that people are included in society” and went on to say how “the model of care that Shared Lives provides for many people is more suitable than residential care”. The Councillor finished off by saying his ‘ears are open’ to hearing more about Shared Lives Carers in the North Wales and how he can help.

Do you want to raise awareness on your work? Would you like support to organise an event? Get in touch with the Shared Lives Wales Development Worker.



Shared Lives in Wales has New Carer Representative

Following the departure of Geoff Bliss, previous AP/SL Carer Representative, to sunnier climates earlier this year, Regine Robertson kindly put herself forward to step in to Geoff's shoes as AL/SL Carer Representative for Wales.

Regine, as many of you may know, has been a great champion of Adult Placement in Wales for many years and is always willing to assist and contribute to its development. When asked about her new role Regine said

"As a relatively experienced AP Carer I hope to be able to bring a 'front line' perspective to the role of AP/SL Carer Representative in Wales. I am excited about this new task, and am looking forward to it, if any Carers need support, advice or representation please contact me on: 01437 563788"

It is however recognised that Wales may benefit from a second Representative in order to share the responsibility and to avoid conflicts of interests that may arise from AP/SL Carers who, in this instance, may also be from Regine's Scheme in west Wales. If anyone would like to be considered as an AP/SL Carer Representative to work alongside Regine please let Regine know, or discuss with your Scheme.

In addition, Regine was also nominated and subsequently elected to the position vice Chair for the Shared Lives Wales committee. Thus continuing the tradition of having AP/SL Carers at the centre of debate and discussion about AP/SL in Wales.

Shared Lives Wales in the News

Shared Lives week also generated interest from the media:

PRESS COVERAGE - Articles ran in a number of local papers in West Wales. **24** Shared Lives stories across three counties in three regional papers.

MEDIA - On 18th October Selwyn Jones, **Gwynedd** Scheme Manager talked about Shared Lives on BBC Radio Cymru's Taro'r Post programme.

Ategi's Tim Southern was on BBC Radio Wales on 19th November on the Louise Elliott Show. Link on the Shared Lives Plus website below:

<http://www.sharedlivesplus.org.uk/nations-and-regions/our-work-in-wales>

Welsh Committee Elects New Chair From West Wales



Shared Lives Wales, the committee of Shared Lives Carers and Adult Placement/Shared Lives Schemes in Wales, has a new chairperson. At the Shared Lives Cymru committee meeting held in Llandrindod Wells on the 5th November Richard Springett, manager of our Adult Placement Scheme in West Wales was unanimously elected as chair.

Richard says: *"I'm particularly interested in giving a greater voice to AP/SL Carers in Wales and increasing the number of opportunities (placements) across all of Wales for vulnerable people and their families".*

He went on to say that *"The all Wales Development post, held by Miriam Merkova, and funded by the Welsh Government, is crucial to moving things forward. I will be working closely with Miriam and the Welsh Government to promote Adult Placement/Shared Lives as a valued and recognised service option for vulnerable people in Wales".* Finally Richard added, *"I see many opportunities for developing and supporting AP/SL Carers to increase opportunities for vulnerable adults, the consultation paper 'When I am Ready' is just one such example."*

Young People & Transition

- Are you an ex-foster carer?
- Would you like to have your views heard regarding the transition process?

The Welsh Government is planning to increase the age limit that young people can remain in care from 18 to 21.

The consultation document also makes reference to the transition of children from foster care to Shared Lives arrangements. We want to ensure that your experiences form part of our feedback to the government. Miriam would welcome comment from Shared Lives Carers in West Wales about the proposals in the consultation document. It can be found on the Wales Governments website;

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dhss/consultation/121009readyen.pdf>



Events & Meetings

The next committee meeting is in Llandrindod Wells on Monday 4th February 2013. Don't forget that Shared Lives Carers are invited! **Do you have any ideas on how we can share information with Shared Lives carers across Wales?**

- A consultative group with a carer rep from each Scheme?
- A Mailing List?
- A Facebook Group?
- More Newsletters?

Miriam Merkova

Shared Lives –

Wales Development Worker

miriam@sharedlivesplus.org.uk

07867 456475

SharedLivesPlus

THE UK NETWORK FOR SMALL COMMUNITY SERVICES

Tel: 0151 227 3499

Email: info@sharedlivesplus.org.uk

Web: www.SharedLivesPlus.org.uk