

Shared Lives Plus, Care Leavers Ambassador

Pay: The rates are as follows:

- £20 per hour
- £140 per day (up to 7.5 hours)

Accountable to: Suzi Clark (Head of Strategic Advice) and Rachel Leslie (Strategic Advisor Care Leavers)

Contract: Zero Hours Contract (Sessional role). Working hours will vary but no more than one day per week. This contract is until July 2026.

Location: Flexible/Remote/Occasional travel within UK

Our Background

Shared Lives Plus is the UK membership charity for more than 6,000 Shared Lives carers, 150 Shared Lives schemes and a growing network of local Homeshare organisations. Our vision is a kinder, stronger society built on sharing our lives and our homes. We help build communities where everyone lives a full life, regardless of the support they need. We do this by turning Shared Lives and Homeshare into thriving, mainstream options, with all the right structures in place to support and guide those who want to share their lives and homes.

We want to be an inclusive place where a diverse mix of talented people want to come and contribute their unique strengths and perspectives. We are focused on equality and believe that all the fascinating characteristics that make us different, make us more able to deliver our life-changing work with passion and creativity.

What is the Care Leavers Programme?

The care leavers programme is working with about 30 Shared Lives schemes across England, Wales and Scotland to support the growth and development of Shared Lives as an option for care experienced people as they become adults. By bringing the voices and ideas of people with lived experience, the programme aims to influence national and local policy and open up Shared Lives for more young people. Learning is shared through a community of practice and from this guidance and other resources are created to help others create change.

We are looking to recruit:

- Someone living in Shared Lives
- Who has left care in the last 5 years
- And who would be happy to share their experience of moving from care, into Shared Lives.

Care Leaver Ambassador Role Objectives

The Ambassador role for the Care Leavers programme can include the following duties:

Helping people understand:

- what Shared Lives means to you
- to tell your story
- to shape understanding of your lived experience of moving from care, into Shared Lives.

This could include:

- Taking part in meetings with people that work at Shared Lives Plus
- Working with us to help develop and deliver training for people that work in social care
- Taking part in online groups that discuss, plan and make decisions about the Care Leavers programme
- Speaking to people that work in Shared Lives schemes and councils to share your experience, with support from Shared Lives Plus
- Sharing your story in writing, with support from Shared Lives Plus

Ambassador Working Pattern / Hours

When we have work for our Ambassadors, we will contact you or your nominated carer to ask if you would like to work. We will let you know what the work is, when you may be needed, and you can decide if you are available and would like to work. We will also help organise any travel arrangements if the work involves travelling.

Carer Support

We understand that you may want your carer to accompany you when you are carrying out your ambassador duties. We will provide support for you and your carer if they need to come to support you.

Pay

When you are working as an Ambassador you will be paid. The rate is £20 per hour and £140 per day (up to 7.5 hours)

When you have worked, the hours you have worked will be added to our monthly payroll and we will pay into your bank account on the last working day of the month for the hours you have worked.

Expenses

When you are working as an Ambassador, we will repay you for any money you and your carer spend when carrying out your role as long as you provide receipts. This can be for things like travel costs (such as train tickets, mileage if you or your carer drive or bus fare).

You can also claim for food expenses as shown below for example if you are working at an event or attending a meeting for a full day:

Maximum amounts payable for receipted amounts

- Breakfast £9
- Lunch £9
- Dinner £25

We will also cover expenses for overnight stay in an hotel for you and your carer if you are asked to attend a meeting or event.

We will speak with you in advance about expenses when your duties as Ambassador involve possible travel and overnight stays in a hotel.

What type of Person makes a good Ambassador?

About you, to do this job you must be a person who:

Experience & Skills

- Happy to share details about their life experiences and their shared lives arrangement
- Is a good listener
- Likes meeting new people, and will join in and speak up for others
- Likes learning new skills
- Likes working as part of a team
- Is reliable
- Is friendly and open

Knowledge:

- Has an understanding of Shared Lives, and the values underpinning our work and the sector
- Has an understanding of how Shared Lives arrangements work.
- Help people understand disabilities better, as some can be hidden.