



Getting the best from Shared Lives in your local area

Strategic advice and support for local authority and health commissioners

“My Shared Lives carers helped turn on the light in my darkest times, when no one else could, and through that, I was able to grow as a person and find happiness. True happiness.”

Leanne, 20, who found support through Shared Lives



Your ambitions

Your ambitions of turning people’s dreams of living in a settled, healthy community into reality, while reducing costs to commissioners is a challenge that is felt across local areas in the UK.

Shared Lives (and other community asset models) can help commissioners meet their Care Act responsibilities within this challenging financial landscape. Shared Lives outperforms other models of regulated care services with 95% of schemes rated good or outstanding by CQC and none rated inadequate.

If all areas caught up with the best performing, around 34,944 people would be supported in Shared Lives arrangements with actual total annual savings of over £225 million in addition to cost avoidance with reduced trips to A&E, GPs, hospital admissions and reduced reliance on community health services.

Our work on the Total Transformation of Care with Birmingham City Council and the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) shows how Shared Lives could help many more people and families to stay well, stay connected to others and stay strong.

Our offer

- Step by step support to start, review, grow or diversify services in a local area or region to support older or disabled people, or more niche groups such as survivors of domestic violence, people misusing substances, or mental ill health.
- Coproduction supporting involving people who use Shared Lives and Shared Lives carers
- National benchmarking and learning from innovation from our UK-wide network
- 360° reviews of Shared Lives schemes' practices, productivity and use of resources with cost/benefit analysis
- Support to organisations to add Shared Lives to their regulated care portfolio.

We draw on our links with government, regulators, academics and independent research organisations to bring together the most up to date policy and thinking to each project we deliver.

Hear from our partners

Birmingham & Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group is taking an asset-based approach to Integrated Personal Commissioning



NHS England's VCSE partners programme is supporting a project to help senior leaders consider the ten features of an 'asset-based area' necessary for developing strong communities and sustainable public services. The project draws on [The Asset-based Area](#), published by Think Local Act Personal in its series on Building Community Capacity and written by Alex Fox, CEO of Shared Lives Plus.

“Initially the focus of IPC will be people who have people with mental health challenges, those with a Learning Disability and End of Life care. Our partnership with Shared Lives Plus will support help us drive culture change, embedding asset-based thinking at Board level and across our partners; an approach which is key to the vision for the programme.”

Anita Holbrook, Birmingham & Solihull Integrated Personal Commissioning Programme Manager

Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Health & Social Care Partnership

is exploring Shared Lives to help them create more opportunities for family based care and linking people back into the community.



Expanding and developing Shared Lives rests on a number of key factors – supply, demand and culture change. The partnership's ambition is to increase its use of Shared Lives to match the best performing areas in the country, but needs to understand how ready it is to turn this into reality. We are working with local schemes, Shared Lives carers, people using Shared Lives or who may wish to in future, and professionals to ensure Shared Lives is developed by a partnership of those who know it best.

“Greater Manchester has developed a transformation of Adult Social Care programme which includes more effective use of community and other resources to support people to be part of and remain independent in local communities. One of the transformation programmes is specifically exploring how people with a learning disability can be supported more effectively within a thriving community.”

Mark Warren, Assistant Director for Adult Social Services and lead for Learning Disabilities

“Greater Manchester has high ambitions for scaling up Shared Lives but we want to ensure that people currently involved in Shared Lives and those who may wish to be supported in Shared Lives in future help assess how ‘ready’ we are to do more, and what would need to happen to make our ambition reality. Our partnership with Shared Lives Plus is vital to getting this right from the start.”

Jo Chilton, Interim Head of Adult Social Care Transformation Programme

ADASS in the North East is building communities of practice as the lynchpin for development of Shared Lives



Use of Shared Lives in the North East is just 0.9% of the adult social care population compared to 2.2% in the neighbouring North West. The partnership aims to increase use of Shared Lives through using evidence-based approaches; engaging the sector through communities of practice; exploring commissioning approaches; and leveraging economies of scale.

Alison McDowell, Assistant Director of Adult Social Care at Newcastle City Council and project sponsor says: **“We know Shared Lives is under-utilised in the North East compared to other areas. The region is committed to supporting people to come together to explore the best ways of expanding Shared Lives, and how we can take a regional approach without losing its roots in each community.”**

Birmingham City Council aims to increase its use of Shared Lives. We are bringing our experience of 360 degree, multi-perspective analysis to understand people's experience of using, working in and referring to their scheme. Their insight will uncover how it can be sustained, improved and developed. The project will also feature an on-site assessment of how well Shared Lives systems and processes have been implemented, with a focus on efficiency and how their practice complies with national guidance.

“Shared Lives is a key priority for me. Our partnership with Shared Lives Plus will help us get under the skin of Shared Lives and learn from national best practice.”

Melanie Brooks, Interim Assistant Director of Adult Social Care

Shared Lives and Homeshare as part of an asset-based approach

Transformation programmes such as NHS England's Integrated Personalised Commissioning (IPC) programme, describe a whole-system change towards an experience of health and care services which is more personalised, more empowering and less isolating.

Local systems tend to agree with these changes in principle, but struggle with:

- What they look like 'on the ground' in terms of behaviour changes and new models of care
- How to reconcile those shifts with the day-to-day pressures facing the health and care system
- How to join up NHS and council 'personalisation' programmes.

We work with other asset-based organisations, such as those in the recent [Six Innovations](#) report, on taking a whole area approach. See inside page to find out more about asset-based thinking in the paper written by our Chief Executive, Alex Fox OBE. Shared Lives and Homeshare are personalised and community-based models of care and support. Councils, more recently NHS England and a number of CCGs are developing them as integrated care models: a tangible way of embedding asset-based practice.

Total Transformation of Care and Support: Creating the five year forward view for social care
www.scie.org.uk/future-of-care/total-transformation/

The Asset-based Area
www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/Latest/The-Asset-Based-Area/

Six Innovations in Social Care
<http://sharedlivesplus.org.uk/images/6innovationsinsocialcare1.pdf>

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