



## **THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)**

**Title of meeting:** Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, Health & Care

**Subject:** Shared Lives

**Date of meeting:** 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Report by:** Marie Edwards, Head of Provider Services

**Wards affected:** All

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### **1. Requested by**

Councillor Matthew Winnington, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, Health & Care

### **2. Purpose**

To inform the Cabinet Member and spokespeople of the work of the shared lives service in Portsmouth, how this aligns with the strategic aims of the Adult Social Care, (ASC) service and the plan for promotion and growth of the Shared Lives Service.

### **3. Information Requested**

#### **3.1 Background**

Adult Placement schemes, commonly termed Shared Lives, involve carers providing care to adults in the carers own home, either on a long or short term basis. The Shared Lives Service offers people the opportunity to live as part of a household in the community, helping them to be as independent as possible whilst maintaining their links to family, community, and friends.

The role of the scheme is to support the carer, with the resident being supported by the Social Worker. When a match is found for both the carer and the resident, following an assessment of need, a 'placement' with the carer is made. This placement might be a 'permanent' or long-term arrangement, or short-term placements for short breaks.

#### **3.2 Portsmouth Shared Lives**

An overview of the Portsmouth Shared Lives Service can be found at Appendix 1.

As of November 2022, the Service was providing support for 34 adults placed with Shared Lives carers in Portsmouth across 25 registered households. The Shared Lives offering is designed to support people with a range of needs, most placements in Portsmouth are for older persons with 31 people in 65+ age group and in long-term placements.



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The Portsmouth Shared Lives Scheme is registered with the CQC and has consistently been rated 'Good' since 2014.

### **3.2 Planning & Strategy**

The UK Government's adult social care reform white paper: 'People at the Heart of Care'<sup>1</sup>, published in November 2021, refers to increasing current Shared Lives places and this aligns to the Portsmouth Adult Social Care Strategy commitment to growing strengths-based housing and care support, increasing the local Shared Lives offering.

The CQC (Care Quality Commission) consistently show that Shared Lives remains the highest quality form of nationally available social care, with the CQC rating 96% of schemes good or outstanding.

Outcomes measures from Shared Lives Plus<sup>2</sup> (the national membership body for Shared Lives carers and schemes) for 2022 show that:

- 97% people in Shared Lives felt they were part of the family most or all the time.
- 87% people felt that their Shared Lives carer's support improved their social life.
- 82% people felt that their Shared Lives carer's support made it easier for them to have friends.
- 92% people in Shared Lives felt involved with their community.
- 85% felt their Shared Lives carer's support helped them have more choice in their daily life.
- 85% of people felt their physical and emotional health had improved.

The State of the Nation Shared Lives Report<sup>3</sup> shows a growth of 42% between 2015 and 2020 for schemes that cater for a wide range of needs related to mental health, dementia, parent and child arrangements, care leavers and the use of shared lives in hospital discharge pathways was increased as part of the response to the pandemic.

Investment in Shared Lives Portsmouth meets the ASC strategy objectives of

1. **Personalise care and support** responding to individuals and their circumstances
2. Will help to develop a **market** for care and support in the city as a valued citizen of Portsmouth.
3. Develop wide **range of housing** and support options that meet varied needs including short breaks, respite, long stay placements and recuperation from a hospital stay.

### **3.3 Funding arrangements**

An overview of funding arrangements can be seen in Appendix 2.

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<sup>1</sup> [People at the Heart of Care: adult social care reform white paper - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/white-papers/people-at-the-heart-of-care)

<sup>2</sup> [The difference Shared Lives makes - Shared Lives Plus](https://www.sharedlivesplus.org.uk/the-difference-shared-lives-makes)

<sup>3</sup> [Report: The state of Shared Lives in England in 2020-2021 - Shared Lives Plus](https://www.sharedlivesplus.org.uk/report-the-state-of-shared-lives-in-england-in-2020-2021)



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### **3.4 Current recruitment activities**

ASC run a rolling campaign, led by communications colleagues.

As part of the Portsmouth activities for Shared Lives week<sup>4</sup> ASC launched a communications campaign to encourage interest and applications from new Shared Lives carers. This included a new section on the PCC website<sup>5</sup> with FAQs for potential carers and shared new case study across external channels. Colleagues within the service also gave interviews to local radio.

There was a 100% increase in views of the Shared Lives webpage, with 201 views over the week. 247 likes, 15 comments and 34 shares of Facebook post featuring the case study (majority of which were organic).

## **4. Developing the Service**

### **4.1 Proposed project plan**

In order to enable more of our residents to benefit from shared lives, ASC is planning to increase the capacity of the service. During 2023, a project plan has been formed and the service has commenced the actions needed to progress.

Key milestones

<b>Phase one</b>	
Shared Lives Plus <sup>6</sup> commissioned to provide strategic support and prepare a business case for expansion of Shared Lives Portsmouth	October 2023
Project kick off meeting with Shared Lives Plus and Shared Lives Portsmouth	October 2023
Data request to Portsmouth submitted	October 2023
Data submission from Portsmouth of Shared Lives Data to Shared Lives Plus	November 2023
Data analysis and benchmarking by Shared Lives Plus	December 2023
Executive summary report and presentation	January 2024
<b>Phase two</b>	
Map service users who could benefit from the service in the next three years	2024

<sup>4</sup> [Shared Lives Week 2023 - Shared Lives Plus](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Shared lives - Portsmouth City Council](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Our story - Shared Lives Plus](#)



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Carer recruitment campaign alongside service users	2024
Carer assessment process review to ensure timely matching process	2024
Track recruitment and savings	2024

**4.2 Challenges/risks/ issues**

There are limited opportunities within the service for career progression, this leads to a risk that experienced and skilled workers leave the service to gain promotion elsewhere in the department or outside the organisation.

The growth of the Shared Lives service had plateaued since the pandemic, there are several reasons for this but in the main it has been more difficult to publicise the service and recruit carers due to Covid restrictions. Whilst it will take some time to build this back up, through development of the project plan, ASC aims to increase awareness of Shared Lives amongst Portsmouth residents and grow the service.

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Signed by (Director)

**Appendices:**

**Appendix1: Current team**

The team consists of a Registered Manager and 4 members of staff (2.9 FTE equivalent) who administer the scheme out of Portsmouth Civic Offices.

Registered Manager	37 hours per week
Senior Shared Lives officer	30 hours per week
Shared Lives officers	22 hours
Shared Lives officer	20 hours
Admin	18 hours

The team carry out the administrative and regulatory responsibilities which primarily involves recruitment and training of Shared Lives Carers, matching adults in need with an appropriate Carer family and offering ongoing support to the Carer family and the person in need.

The current offering is dependent upon having enough Shared Lives Officers recruiting, training, and supporting carers and finding appropriate matches in the community. Activity required to develop targeted strategies designed to ensure the Shared Lives service continues to add value to the supported accommodation pathway. The team structure has remained largely unchanged since 2005; however, the impact of flexible retirement requests has reduced staffing hours by 24.5 hours per week.



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### **Appendix 2: Funding arrangements**

Placements are funded in two bands to ensure that the carer receives the proportionate level of funding per level of support and care required.

Those carers supporting individuals with exceptional needs, such as high-level physical care needs and 24-hour supervision, receive a 'S117' enhanced payment.

The following is an overview of the range of payments that are made to the carer on a weekly basis depending on the banding:

<b>Bands</b>	<b>Range £ (per week)</b>		<b>Average care cost £ (per week)</b>
	Min.	Max. (S117)	
Band 1	334.60	496.02	415.31
Band 2	450.66	612.08	531.37

Residents are financially assessed as part of their needs assessment and paid eligible contributions and those who are eligible are guided and encouraged to claim housing benefit to help contribute towards their accommodation costs especially as these account for a third, to a half of the overall costs. However, in some cases, residents might be ineligible to claim benefits if they have no recourse to public funds.

In previous years grant funding was available for extra staff to support experienced staff with their caseloads and allow them to focus more on recruiting and assessing new applicants. For example, prior to the pandemic, an additional full-time worker for 18 months was recruited to backfill experienced staff which resulted in 13 additional placements.

Additional funds have been allocated for publicity and promotion, as part of the communications plan.

### **Cost Effectiveness**

Shared Lives placements average costs are between £415 and £531 per week depending on the type of placement and support needs.

Placing people within the Shared Lives scheme is a cost-effective way of achieving positive outcomes for residents when compared with traditional forms of long-term residential care, nursing care and supported accommodation.

The table below indicates potential savings per week using the higher rate of cost:



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<b>Setting</b>	<b>National unit costs £ per week</b>	<b>Shared Lives unit cost £ per week</b>	<b>Savings £ per week</b>
Local authority own-provision residential care for older people (age 65+)	1,409.00	531.00	878.00
Care home for adults requiring long-term mental health support ( 65+)	697.00	531.00	166.00
Residential care homes for adults requiring learning disability support	1,691.00	531.00	1,160.00

For every resident benefitting from a Shared Lives live-in arrangements at the higher rate and not using a care home provision, savings delivered are between £8,500 and £60,000 per annum, (dependent on need).

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

<b>Title of document</b>	<b>Location</b>