

Shared Lives Guidance

Matching



Matching is about making sure you get the Shared Lives carer or Shared Lives carers that are right for you

Matching is:

- Finding a Shared Lives carer that you will get on well with
- Finding a Shared Lives carer who can help you with the things you need
- Finding a house that suits your needs

All of the Shared Lives Carers are properly trained

To make sure we find the right Shared Lives carer(s) for you, we will think carefully about things like:



- The day to day help you need
- What skills the Shared Lives carer has
- What hobbies and interests you and the Shared Lives carer have
- Where the Shared Lives carer's home is

If we find any Shared Lives carers who we think would be a good match for you, we will give you information about them.

We will also give the Shared Lives carers information about you to help make sure the match is right.

What happens next?

You will get the chance to meet up with the Shared Lives carer(s). You can bring someone who knows you well along with you, or you can send someone to go to the meeting for you if you don't want to go.

This '**introduction**' meeting will help you to find out more about the Shared Lives carer or carers and see what you have in common with them.

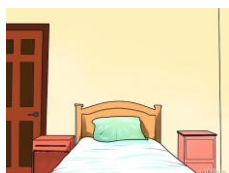
At the introduction, you will usually be able to do things like:



- meet the Shared Lives carer(s) and the family or other people who live with them



- see the house and the neighbourhood



- See the bedroom (if you will be staying there)



- Have a meal there



- Stay overnight (if you plan to have short breaks or live there)



- Ask any questions
- Speak in private to other people who already use Shared Lives

You or someone you trust can visit the Shared Lives carer(s) as many times as you want until you feel ready to make your mind up.

If you decide to go ahead with the match you will have a trial period. This means you will have an agreed length of time to try out the Shared Lives Carer/s home

Next....



You decide if you want the person to be your Shared Lives Carer. You don't have to decide straight away.

The Shared Lives carer (s) also decide if they think you would make a good match together.

You should take your time. It is an important decision.

What happens if I don't think the Shared Lives carer(s) would be right for me?

It is OK if you don't think the match is right for you. We will try to find you someone else.

You will be in control. We will help you to make the decision that is right for you.

What if it is an emergency and I need to find a place to stay and carers to support me right now?

Your Shared Lives worker will talk to you about this and come up with a plan.