



ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

17 SEPTEMBER 2024

REPORT TITLE:	SHARED LIVES UPDATE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF ADULTS, HEALTH AND STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of the progress and future development of the Shared Lives Wirral, Adult Social Care.

Shared Lives Wirral is a Care Quality Commission (CQC) registered service, which was brought back into the Council in April 2023.

The report will focus on:

- Background information
- Co-production journey
- Growth of the service
- Recruitment of Shared Lives carer's
- Future development areas
- Impact – difference made on people's lives

The report supports the Council Plan: Wirral Working Together 2023-27, specifically the 'Promoting Independence and Healthier Lives' and 'Early Help for Children and Families' themes.

This report is a non-key decision which affects all wards.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is recommended to note the progress of Shared Lives Wirral.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The State of Shared Lives Care in England, published in February 2022, stated that 96% of Shared Lives services in England have a CQC rating of Good and above. From this, 98% of people living in Shared Lives felt that they are part of a family most or all of the time and 85% felt that Shared Lives had improved their social life.
- 1.2 However, although the data shows that Shared Lives provides a high-quality service, which is more cost effective than other traditional models of care, it only accounts for 1% of adult social care provision in England. This theme was found to be the case for Wirral under its commissioned outsourced provider. It was recognised at this time, that the service had become stagnant, with very little growth. The service was underutilised and there was no scope of reaching the potential that the Shared Lives could offer the people of Wirral. Due to this, on the 1st of April 2023, the Shared Lives contract was brought back in house and rebranded as Shared Lives Wirral, a new CQC registered service as part of Adult Social Care.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options were considered as this is a progress and future development report for Shared Lives Wirral.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Shared Lives Wirral is a housing with care and support service provided by dedicated individuals, couples and families in their own homes who have been approved and trained for that role. An individual will live with a Shared Lives carer as part of daily living arrangements within the carer's home. Shared Lives carers can provide support either within or outside of the home of the carer. Shared Lives carers are self-employed and can provide a full-time placement or a respite service.
- 3.2 Shared Lives Wirral provides an alternative service to that of traditional adult social care and is often referenced to adult fostering.
- 3.3 Shared Lives Wirral is a Care Quality Commissioned service which was insourced into the Council as of 1st April 2023.

3.4 Shared Lives Wirral enables a wide range of people who need support to live independent lives and have their health and wellbeing promoted. The benefits include:

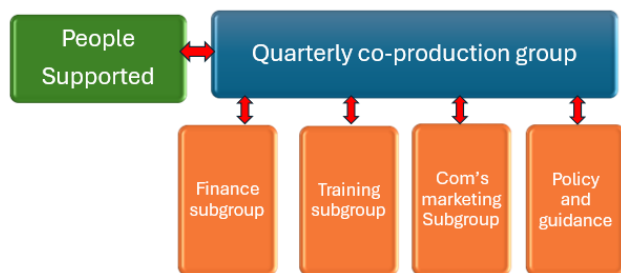
- Person centred care and consistent support
- Promoting people to live independently and supporting them to make their own choices
- Being part of a local community, socialising, making new friendships and relationships
- Offer people an alternative and highly flexible form of accommodation and support inside or outside the home, provided by ordinary individuals or families (Shared Lives Carer) in the local community.
- Enable people to lead an ordinary life in a family home who use services to share in the life and activities of the Shared Lives Carer
- Trying out new experiences and learning new skills, building confidence and improving self-esteem, leading to volunteering and supporting employment opportunities
- Reducing the number of people being referred to other long term care options, like residential or nursing homes
- Reducing the dependence on residential bed-based respite
- Enhanced respite offers, which is a person-centred family orientated option bringing flexible sustainable respite
- Offering a respite service to support unpaid carers to sustain their wellbeing and enhance opportunities for the people they support.

3.5 The staffing structure consists of a Registered Manager, a Senior Placement Officer and two Placement Officers. Upon transfer into the council, no staff were available for TUPE and as such, all staff supporting Shared Lives Wirral were newly recruited to the posts. During the first six months of service delivery, the newly appointed workforce undertook an assessment of the quality of the service and produced an improvement plan. This was co-produced with carers.

3.6 **Coproduction** - Shared Lives Wirral recognised the expertise and the valuable experiences of the carers in the future delivery of an improved services. In doing so, an agreed improvement plan was co-produced. This includes: -

- all policies, guidance, procedures and development plans are led by the carers, who have the lived experience of delivering the service, with the support of the staffing team
- Quarterly coproduction group meeting was established with a series of subgroups or working parties. Each subgroup is led by a carer, supported by a member of staff. The remaining group members are carers and appropriate professionals relevant to the subject matter
- Planned quarterly shared lives Wirral events to enable voice of those supported, in a socialised relaxed environment, held at the weekends to avoid clashes with daytime experiences.

3.7 Shared lives Wirral: coproduction structure.



3.8 Growth of the service: the period of planning concluded in October 2023, and the service has seen a steady growth with Shared Lives Wirral placements.

Number of carers and people supported		% increase
On transfer into Wirral Council as of 1st April 2023 till October 2023	From October 2023 to date	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 36 people supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 43 people supported 	19%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 47 Shared Lives Carers (including support carers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 57 Shared Lives Carers 	21%

3.9 Whereas there has been steady growth in the service, it was recognised that the rate of growth of the service was being limited by the number of placement officers available to recruit and support new Shared Lives Wirral Carers.

3.10 Recruitment of Shared Lives Carers - the only limiting factor to the number of people that can be supported through Shared Lives Wirral is the number of Shared Lives Carers available. It is recognised that to increase the number of Shared Lives Carers there needs to be an increase in the number of Shared Lives placement officers to facilitate recruitment and continual support to people placed.

3.11 Through Cheshire and Mersey Accelerated Reform Fund, a one-off payment government grant has been allocated to Wirral to recruit two full time, fixed term contract placement officers to support the growth plan - it is envisaging the service will be able to support approx. 40/50 more people per year. Although this is short-term funding, it is recognised that for every Shared Lives placement on Wirral, there is a cost avoidance of £8000 per person, with an annual value of between £320,000 and £400,000. This is due to a shared lives placement requiring significantly lower funding than a full-time residential placement. It is anticipated that the costs avoided to the Council will be able to sustain the fixed term contracts and enable more and improved outcomes for the people of Wirral.

- 3.12 To increase awareness of Shared Lives Wirral, there will be front facing promotional and continual recruitment campaigns to increase the number of carers to support respite, both paid and unpaid. To support the campaign, an apprentice with social media, promotions and communications skills will be recruited on a 2-year fixed term contract. This will be also resourced from Cheshire and Mersey Accelerated Reform Fund.
- 3.13 **Further development** - Shared Lives and Carer breaks. Wirral's Adult Carers Strategy 2023 to 2026 identified that carers breaks are a priority for Wirral Council. Carer breaks are considered by some unpaid carers to be essential, enabling them to rest and take a break from their caring responsibilities. There is evidence to suggest that breaks can lead to positive effects on an unpaid carer's health and wellbeing and on their ability to cope with the stress of caring.
- 3.14 Currently, the respite offer on Wirral is reported by Shared lives carers and unpaid carers as being limited. They are reliant on a small number of traditional bed-based care facilities or the support of friends which they are reluctant to use.
- 3.15 The standard offer of a residential placement is something that not only is limited by capacity but is costly and has little flexibility in relation to the offer. Due to this, a Shared Lives Wirral respite model is being developed alongside more traditional options. Not only will this provide a flexible, family approach to respite, its capacity is not limited to buildings and specialist staff recruitment, Shared Lives Wirral carers can be recruited on an individual need's lead/skill basis, providing a flexible person-centred approach to every placement. See Appendix 1 - Lucy Guest House potential partnership.
- 3.16 **Preparation for adulthood and transition opportunities** - By working in collaboration with children's, health and education system partners, Shared Lives Wirral can support young people from 16 years of age with a personal care need, or 18 years without as part an adult social care offer. This will be captured in the Target Operating Model (TOM) which will define the strength-based practice model, systems and processes to support young people aged 14-25 as they transition and prepare for adulthood. For those in long term foster care, there is the ability for the foster carer to also become a Shared Lives carer.
- 3.17 **Development of a transitional support to independence services** – There is an opportunity to support the transitional process of children who have been supported as a child and may, once they have turned 18 wish to live independently. For example, where young people who would be leaving care, they would be supported by a Shared Lives carer for a period of 12-24 months to enable the development of life skills and coping with the financial management skills associated with living independently in the community.
- 3.18 **Impact and difference made** – Shared Lives Wirral may be in its infancy, however the impact on people lives has been inspiring and breathtaking. Appendix 2 highlights the impact from real life stories of people who access Shared Lives Wirral.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All financial implications in relation to the growth of the Shared lives Wirral service will be funded from Cheshire and Mersey Accelerated Reform Fund 2024 to the value of £225,000 over 2 years.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council has a legal duty to assess the needs of people who may need care and support, to promote independence and wellbeing, and can apply discretion as to how to meet those needs identified.
- 5.2 Shared Lives Wirral is a Care Quality Commissioned service. Shared Lives Carers share their home and family life with vulnerable adults who have been assessed as eligible for care and support under the Care Act 2014.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 Recognising the current capacity challenges within the Council, resources have been secured externally as noted in 4.1 of the financial section of this report. Placement officers and a campaign and promotions apprenticeship will be recruited on a 2-year fixed term contract. It is forecasted that the cost avoidance opportunity over the two years will sustain the posts and provide not only improved outcomes for the people with a care and health need but provide efficiencies to the Council as an alternative provision than transitional care and support.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 There is a minimum risk financially. This is mitigated by securing and confirmation received of external funding as noted in 4.1 of this report.
- 7.2 There is a risk of delays in processing and the advertisement of the fixed term roles. This will be mitigated by working in collaboration with the Council HR team and articulating the importance of these roles in the cost avoidance opportunities as highlighted in 3.11 of this report.
- 7.3 There is a risk of limited interest in recruitment due to fixed term roles. This will be mitigated by actively promoting the roles through the carer networks in addition to the traditional recruitment campaigns, and if necessary, explore secondments or job share opportunities.
- 7.4 There is a low risk that Shared Lives Wirral is unable to sustain the new roles beyond two years. This will be mitigated by rigorous monitoring and recording of the costs avoided to repurpose and sustain the roles beyond two years. There will also be in place a balance of key performance indicators and outcomes, with the governance arrangements to monitor and report progress in a timely manner.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 People supported, carer experts by experience and stakeholders have been engaged in the coproduction of the improvement and growth priorities as noted in section 3.6 of this report.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been produced and will continue to be updated as part of the implementation of the new developments and growth of Shared Lives Wirral. This is located here: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

9.2 This is an inclusive service to which equality and diversity is integral. Further consideration will also be given to the need for an EIA for any individual areas of work within the service where this is identified.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Consideration will be given to environmental and climate implications in the planning and implementation of the review, and in its recommendations.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Shared Lives, Wirral employ self-employed carers, who the majority are Wirral residents and contribute to the local economy. Vulnerable adults supported by Shared Lives Wirral, have greater opportunity to reach their aspirations for work, housing, leisure, learning and volunteering and will positively impact on the vibrancy and development of local communities and economies.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Amanda Parry-Mateo**
Head of Provider Services- All Age Independence
T: 07909846379
E: Amandaparrymateo@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Lucy Guest House potential partnership.

Appendix 2 Real life stories of people who access Shared Lives Wirral.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report: The state of Shared Lives in England in 2020-2021 - Shared Lives Plus

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee in accordance with Section 2.2(a) adult social care matters (e.g., people aged 18 or over with eligible social care needs and their careers).

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee	23 September 2021