

Real life stories of people who access Shared Lives Wirral

- A gentleman moved in with his Shared Lives carer in 2010 when he was 18. Now, at 32, he made the decision that he no longer felt that he needed health and social care. He did not want the label of having care needs and felt that he had come so far, that he did not need service. His Shared Lives carer was happy to support him in his decision and he was going to continue to live with his carer, who would then turn into his housemate. We referred his wishes to social services in April 2024 and with the correct support and signposting, he is now assessed as not needed adult social care and is living happily in his family home independently.
- A gentleman who is 47 years old moved in with his Shared Lives family 3 years ago. He told us last year that he had never been on holiday abroad. Working with his appointee and his extended Shared Lives family, they have recently this summer enjoyed a cruise where he visited 6 countries! Next, he would like to go on an aeroplane.
- A young lady who was successfully transferred to Shared Lives from children's foster service, staying with her foster parent and has secured voluntary employment in a local Care Home with support from Shared Lives, Wirral. In her new role, she will be supporting with activities one day a week. She said that all she wants to do is help other people and is very excited to be given the opportunity to do this.
- A lady who is no longer in contact with her parents had not seen her sister or nephew for over 18 months. Shared Lives, Wirral supported her to meet with her sister and nephew with her placement officer. Although very anxious and nervous at first, she met and enjoyed a coffee in Starbucks with her family, then went off shopping with her sister. We are also hoping to arrange for her to meet up with her younger sister soon.
- A lady was living in a caravan with no hot water or heating due to her mental health resulting in behaviours that identified the use of electricity and purchasing food as wasteful and so would neglect her personal needs, including eating. She is now part of the Shared Lives Wirral and lives with a Shared Lives family where she is being supported not to neglect her needs. She is now accepting of warm showers and seeing heating as an acceptable part of a home. She is now also being supported to accept at least one cooked meal per day as part of her development plan.
- A 21-year-old lady has lived with her Shared Lives family for 3 years. She had been struggling with paying her bills as she needed support. Initially she would spend her money on things she didn't really need before paying her bills. This meant that she was very anxious and her mental health was declining as she was getting herself into debt. Her placement offer supported her and her carer to produce a budget plan so she could see what she needed to pay and what money she had left over. She was also supported to put a little away in savings as she would like to learn to drive one day. The savings are still a bit of an aspiration, but she is paying her bills and reducing her debt which is a huge achievement for her, and her wellbeing has improved. Driving licence next!