

Waltham Forest Shared Lives Scheme

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SL CARER

Adult placement offers people an alternative and highly flexible form of accommodation and/or care or support with specially selected and trained individuals and families in the local community (SL Carers). This alternative – which allows people in adult placements to share in the lives and activities of SL Carers and their families – is very much valued.

The Role of the SL Carer

SL Carers have a difficult and complex role. They are asked to share their lives and their homes with the people placed with them and to work with those people in accordance with the key principles of shared lives, the requirements of the service user plan and placement agreement and the SL Scheme policies and procedures. They are expected therefore to have both a professional and an informal and caring relationship with the people that they support. One of the key principles of adult placement is that the people in adult placements are able to be included in family life and develop friendships with a range of people who are part of the personal life of the SL Carer. These requirements inevitably result in a tension between the professional and personal roles of SL Carer and it is remarkable that these tensions are usually managed so well.

SL Carers are paid for their work and are usually self-employed. They have been through an intensive assessment and approval process and are both trusted and expected to use their own initiative and to work with a high degree of autonomy. They are however also expected to follow a detailed service plan, to work co-operatively and positively with a wide range of professionals and others involved in the life of the people placed with them and their work is subject to rigorous monitoring and review. There is a tension between these requirements which must be recognised and managed by the SL Carer and their Scheme worker.

Another tension lies in the role that the SL Carer has in regard to the people placed with them. SL Carers are asked to provide care and support to the people in the placement. People placed with SL carers are however adults and citizens with the same rights and responsibilities as any other adult and citizen. SL carers are not in 'loco parentis' and cannot legally take decisions on behalf of the service user e.g: They cannot give consent for any medical procedure proposed to be carried out on the person placed with them. The ultimate responsibility for decisions taken and their consequences must lie with the person in the placement but the SL Carer should properly be involved in any decision about the level of support that they require and the type of risks that may safely be taken.

SL Carer Responsibilities

The SL Carer has a wide range of responsibilities. They are responsible for:

- Working in accordance with CQC's essential standards of quality and safety under the Health and Social Care Act 2008, this includes compliance with all Waltham Forest's agreed policies and procedures.
- Treating the person placed with them with respect and dignity and supporting them to express their views and make choices and decisions.
- Respecting the right to confidentiality of the person placed with them and following their SL Scheme's Policy on Confidentiality.
- Working in accordance with the aims and objectives of the SL Scheme, the SL Carer Agreement and the SL Scheme's Policies and Procedures.
- Working to the General Social Care Council Code of Conduct for Social Care Workers
- Ensuring the health, safety and welfare of themselves, their household and any person placed with them.
- Making time for themselves and their family and having regular time apart from the person placed with them.
- Receiving referrals only through their SL Scheme and co-operating with the SL Scheme's procedure for matching and introductions.
- Accepting a placement only where they have been provided with a comprehensive written needs assessment and believe they can meet the Service User's assessed needs.
- Working with the person placed with them in accordance with their Service User Plan and the Placement Agreement
- Taking full account of any written risk assessment, informing the SL Scheme worker of any additional identified risks for the person placed with them and working with the SL Scheme and others to develop strategies to manage those risks.
- Identifying any change in the needs of the person placed with them and bringing those changes to the attention of the SL Scheme and other relevant professionals.
- Discussing and obtaining approval from the SL Scheme for any arrangements for Support Carers.

- Keeping any records that are required by the SL Scheme in line with statutory requirements and the Data Protection Act 1998.
- Working positively and co-operatively with professionals and other people involved in the life of the person placed with them.
- Engaging positively in regular support and monitoring visits by the SL Scheme worker, allowing access to their homes at all reasonable times.
- Engaging in any training or learning provided by the SL Scheme designed to meet identified training needs
- Participating positively in placement and SL Carer reviews.
- Participating positively in any meetings with CQC inspectors that are part of the SL Scheme registration and inspection process.
- Informing the SL Scheme worker of any serious accident or incident including:
 - Death of the person placed
 - The outbreak of any serious infectious disease in the SL Carer's home
 - Any serious injury or illness of the person placed
 - Any event that may have an adverse effect on the person placed
 - Any theft or burglary in the SL Carer's home
 - Any incident involving the person placed and which is reported to or investigated by the police
 - Any allegation made by the person placed against the SL Carer or a member of their household
 - Any unexplained absence for more than 12 hours of the person placed from the SL Carer's home.
 - Any serious illness of the person
- Informing the SL Scheme immediately of:
 - Any criminal or civil conviction
 - Any proposed change of accommodation
 - Any change in the composition of the household
 - Any change in personal circumstances that may affect their ability to support the person placed with them
 - Any proposal to have time away from their caring role.
- Obtaining appropriate public liability and other insurance as required by the SL Scheme or relevant regulatory and statutory bodies
- Fulfilling their responsibilities as self employed people for tax and national insurance purposes.

- Informing their SL Scheme if they have cause for concern about the well being of any vulnerable person in the care of the SL Scheme in accordance with the SL Scheme's whistle blowing policy and procedure.
- Using the SL Scheme complaints procedure if they believe the Scheme has breached any of its responsibilities.