

SHARED LIVES CARER

You will need to be practical, sociable and patient. Your empowering personality, caring nature, and willingness to help someone explore new opportunities are more important than your previous experience.

Values and attitudes:

- Non judgemental
- Enthusiasm and passion for what could be achieved for and with the service user
- Open and honest
- Values each individual and supports them in a person centred way

Skills:

- Communication skills – able to talk openly and easily with a range of people including professionals.
- Organised within the household
- Able to weigh up risks and make considered decisions
- Able to cope with unpredictability and be flexible
- Able to keep accurate records e.g. finance, incidents, medication
- Able to empower people to develop and achieve their potential
- Ability to empathise
- Ability to maintain professional boundaries
- Able to use e-mail and the internet (this is our preferred communication method)

Personal characteristics:

- Patience
- Willingness to go the extra mile for others
- Integrity • Calmness when required
- Enthusiasm and energy
- Willingness to learn new things
- Self awareness of strengths and weaknesses
- Sense of responsibility for the wellbeing of others

Experience:

- Personal, voluntary or work based experience of caring for or supporting people in some capacity
- Relevant life experience that the person can translate into the role of Shared Lives carer

Knowledge:

- Awareness of needs of service users even if no in-depth knowledge of conditions
- An understanding of the role of a Shared Lives carer
- An understanding of how to maintain health and wellbeing in self and others
- Understand person centred approaches

Property:

Sufficient bedrooms for number of people proposed with adequate space for furniture and personal possessions

- Clean, safe and well maintained
- Sufficient bathroom facilities for all household members' needs
- Comfortable
- Allows space and privacy for all household members
- Permission from landlord or mortgage company

Whole family context:

- Willingness to include the service user in all aspects of family life
- Whole household supportive of the proposal to become a Shared Lives carer
- Family works as a team

Physical health requirements:

- Generally in good health
- Any pre existing mental or physical health issues are well controlled and the Shared Lives carer role would not exacerbate the condition or put the carer or service user at risk.

Qualifications:

- No specific qualifications required
- Commitment to training and to undertake learning to meet the needs of the service users and the requirements of the role of Shared Lives carer

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