

**Wiltshire Council**

**Council**

**20 February 2018**

---

**Notice of Motion No. 6 – Scaling up Shared Lives in Wiltshire**

**From Councillors Brian Matthew and Gordon King**

---

“This motion calls for a feasibility assessment of the potential for the scaling up of Wiltshire Council ‘Shared Lives’ programme to help meet Wiltshire’s adult social care needs.

Currently Wiltshire Council’s ‘Shared Lives’ Programme is assisting around 23 service users providing them with an alternative to traditional residential care.

In other local Authority areas, such as Cornwall, Devon, North Somerset, East Sussex and elsewhere, much larger numbers of service users are being assisted by their respective ‘Shared Lives’ programmes.

The benefits for the service users of the programme, have been shown to be a better more fulfilling personal life experience, and for the carers, a rewarding occupation is on offer.

Shared Lives carers once assessed and trained can take up to a maximum of three service users per home, subject to approval. With costs per service user on the Shared Lives Programme in the region of £360 per week per person this suggests that considerable savings could be made by Wiltshire Council.

The assessment would examine the potential to achieve such cost savings, and if proved feasible, develop a roll out plan for the scaling up of the ‘Shared Lives’ programme across Wiltshire in a timely manner.”

## **Officer Briefing Note:**

Shared Lives operates on a national basis with around 150 schemes across the country. Shared Lives arrangements are arranged and monitored by a registered Shared Lives scheme, whose role includes assessing the ongoing suitability and safety of the Shared Lives carer's home and accommodation provided to the person living in the Shared Lives arrangement; carrying out DBS checks (Disclosure and Barring Service) on the Shared Lives carer; and ensuring the property meets fire, electrical and gas safety regulations.

Shared Lives schemes are responsible for recruiting, training and approving Shared Lives carers. Shared Lives schemes are also responsible for "matching"; the process by which Shared Lives carers and people who use Shared Lives services are matched for compatibility, which is the foundation of a successful and mutually beneficial Shared Lives arrangement.

The shared lives scheme in Wiltshire has been established for over 30 years and is a CQC registered service that provides care or support to people who are unable to live in a home of their own, but who live alongside other people in a family-like setting. Currently there are 27 people in Shared Lives Schemes in Wiltshire at a total cost of around £635k per annum.

The service was inspected by CQC in September 2017 and rated good. Feedback of those people that use the service was positive with people saying that they felt safe living with their shared lives carers and the carers were always there to help them.

A key part of the scheme is the Shared Lives Carers who come from all different backgrounds and are able to offer care and support in their own homes.

It is a cost-effective service that forms part of the accommodation options for people with Learning Disabilities in Wiltshire.

We are keen to expand the scheme as part of a wider Accommodation Pathway for people with Learning Disabilities that promotes independence. This will ensure that there is a range of options available for people who require accommodation based care and support and alternatives to Residential Care.

As part of this Pathway we are also exploring options for Extra Care for people with learning disabilities; as more people with learning disabilities are having longer lives, it is important that we ensure that we have appropriate accommodation options for them, like the rest of the population.