

**Wiltshire Council**

**Council**

**26 February 2019**

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**From Councillor Ian Thorn, Calne Central Division**

**To Councillor Jerry Wickham, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Public Protection**

**Question (19-27)**

How do we deliver the shared lives programme in order to at least match the number of places provided by the best performing local authorities?

**Response**

In Wiltshire the Shared Lives scheme, rated “Good” by Care Quality Commission (CQC) at its last inspection in 2017, currently has 21 active carers providing accommodation and support to 27 customers. These individuals have a range of care and support needs, including a physical and/or learning disability, mental health, neurological conditions or those relating to the ageing process. Placement locations are geographically diverse spread across the county, although a greater number are located in the west of the county and tend to centre around the main towns.

The Shared Lives offer in the county is a traditional one, based mainly on long term care arrangements with the customer living as part of the family home. Currently 5 placements have existed for more than 5 years, 10 for over 10 years and 3 for over 20 years. Across the country, new options for Shared Lives placements have been developed which include offers for day time support, respite and emergency provision. Although the Wiltshire scheme offers a small amount of respite, no other service offers have yet been developed.

Adult Social Care recognises that the current Shared Lives scheme is not meeting its full potential and as a result has worked with elected members, Cllr Matthews and Cllr Jacobs who visited Shared Lives schemes based in other local authorities including North Somerset to support the development of the service going forward.

Adult Social Care, therefore, have invested £55,000 to ensure there is a robust marketing campaign established in the next financial year 2019/20 to promote the service and recruit more carers, who will be trained by the existing team to care for individuals in more creative ways.

Adult Social Care has ensured that the Shared Lives scheme and the development of the service should lead to efficiencies of up to £200,000.00.

The development of the scheme forms part of the Adult Social Care Budget Savings Plan for 2019/20 and with oversight from the Corporate Director, Carlton Brand and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Public Protection, will be robustly reviewed and monitored.

Once the Shared Lives Carer group has grown, following robust induction, training and support from the Shared Lives team, the Shared Lives scheme will offer a variety of care and support including day time support and emergency provision.

The role, profile and status of the Shared Lives scheme will be raised across the Council and wider communities akin with our Foster Carer scheme.

There will be a roll out of the newly developed Shared Lives scheme across Adult Social Care to ensure that it is the first option made available to a wider range of service user groups including young people with disabilities transitioning from Foster Care into Adult Social Care.

This will be reviewed and monitored alongside the CQC standards and with additional support from Shared Lives Plus a national organisation supporting local Shared Lives scheme to develop their own services.