

Appendix 1

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL ADULT PLACEMENT/SHARED LIVES SERVICE

Offering respite and short stays to people with learning disabilities within the community – 2 recent examples of service provided

- R is a man in his 40s with Aspergers Syndrome, a learning disability and epilepsy. His carer was due to have an operation that would leave her unable to provide care to R for two weeks. R's care management team referred him to us; we introduced R to an Adult Placement Carer who specialises in providing respite. During his stay with the couple he was supported to maintain his usual routines (which are of particular importance to him) and to join in with the Adult Placement Carer's family activities. This respite arrangement successfully met both the needs of R's carer and R himself, as he was provided with continuity, support and companionship by the Adult Placement Carers whilst his own carer was incapacitated.
- C is a woman with psychosis and a learning disability. There have recently been safeguarding concerns about where she lives. A few weeks ago C was admitted to a mental health facility to help stabilise her mental health and her behaviour. Ordinarily once her condition improved she would have been discharged and return home. However, due to the on-going safeguarding concerns at the time, she was referred to the service for a six week short term placement whilst longer term arrangements could be explored by the care management team. Although C is described by the Adult Placement Carer as the most challenging person they have worked with, they recognise that she requires and responds to their close support. And so, at the request of the department, they have agreed to extend the short stay for a further period whilst longer term arrangements are set in place.

Adult Placement (AP) Carers

AP carers may be single or couples, with or without children living at the family home. They are allowed to have one, two or three customers living or staying with them, depending upon their facilities. The suitability of each Carer is assessed over several months by the AP assessment team and the process includes:

- The completion of Common Induction Standards training with exercises designed to prepare people for this role.
- Evaluation of the family's circumstances, capabilities and values.
- DBS checks (formally CRB).
- References from GP, professionals and friends.
- The assessor's report on their suitability.

Prospective AP carers are then interviewed by the AP Approval Panel who consider the application and give final approval.