

Shared Lives Scheme



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Hillingdon Shared Lives Scheme provides accommodation, care and support to vulnerable adults in a safe and appropriate manner within a family setting.

Shared Lives is a positive alternative to building based services by placing the service users within a family home, promoting their social inclusion which can often be challenging within a residential setting.

The scheme is for:

Adults aged 18 and upwards with:

- a learning disability
- a physical or sensory disability
- recovering mental health issues
- an older person who needs support



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The scheme also supports young people, 16+ who have a learning disability or who are seeking asylum. Young people who are seeking asylum may have experienced trauma in their lives, have low self esteem and a mistrust of people.

The scheme places the young people with carers who develop their skills and help them to build positive relationships. This could be by encouraging simple things such as eating a meal with the carer or going out to do the shopping.

The young person may also build a relationship with the carer's family who can provide additional support and these relationships can be beneficial on both sides.



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Examples of how carers have supported young asylum seeking men include:

- Helping them to buy and cook their traditional food
- Opening bank accounts and helping with college bursaries
- Supporting them with issues at college
- Facilitating visits to the Mosque and supporting fasting

The carers have built trust and relationships with the young men who now say they feel happier, more confident and independent, and supported in practicing their beliefs and way of life.



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