PSS

Manchester Shared Lives

LGBT Foundation 2nd floor

5 Richmond St

Manchester

M1 3HF

**Short Description of what we do**

PSS is a social enterprise that works across the UK. We have one key purpose: to help people get the most from life, whether this is at home, in their families, in their health and well-being or within their wider support networks.

In 2019 our organisation will celebrate its 100th birthday, but even as the years mount up one thing’s for sure, we’re not slowing with age.

As an organisation we developed some of the best known names in community support including Age Concern, the Citizen’s Advice Bureau and Legal Aid. Today our team is continuing our legacy of innovation. We sit alongside Local Government and NHS services plugging the gaps and providing ‘on the ground’ support for a wide array of people. Our aim is simple and has been at the heart of what we do for a long time: to make the lives of those we work with better.

**A short Description about Shared Lives Manchester (also known as Adult Placement)**

Operating in a similar way to Foster care, this service enables adults with disabilities and/or mental health problems to live with a specially recruited carer and their family.



**Overview**

Shared Lives (or Adult Placement as it is also known) is a form of support where vulnerable adults and young people over 16 live at home with a specially recruited and trained carer and their family. The service runs in a similar way to a Foster placement, but this service is specifically designed for adults and young people.

Our service is fully focused around choice and independence. We encourage each individual to get involved in the decision of where they live and plan our matches carefully, so that both the carer and person using the service feel happy before the arrangement is made.

At PSS we manage the service from the start: we recruit and train carers,

we gain a strong understanding of the needs of those wishing to use the

service and alongside those involved we match the two together. We offer

a programme of training and support for our carers, which helps maintain high levels of support and most importantly we are there 24/7 to help our carers along the way.

We have nearly 400 carers across the UK so we can find carers from very specific backgrounds or defined areas if required.

Here in Manchester we are launching a campaign to recruit new carers. Shared Lives carers receive a support fee for their time. The amount they receive varies according to the individuals needs of the person they are caring for. We're looking for people who want to support others with the flexibility of working from home and being paid a fair wage while meeting new people and changing lives for the better.

Service users also pay a set amount towards the family food budget and household bills and in long term placements they are helped to manage their own tenancy and pay rent, usually through partial or full housing benefit.

**AN EXAMPLE**

Jane Williams is one of our North Wales Shared Lives carers and she lives in home with her husband and three men who live there as part of Shared Lives.

The family are very close and do everything together, whether it be eating, socialising or holidaying.

The family have an array of animals including chickens, dogs, horses and a grey parrot and everyone ‘mucks in’ to help out with the animals. The men Jane cares for all love to help run the house and they ensure everything ticks over. “I have a big house and had previously worked in a supported landlady role for tenants needing more care. PSS Shared Lives seemed like a natural progression as I had the space, the time and the patience. “I have two men who live with me and a third man who is staying on a temporary basis. We live together as a family and share our lives. The men I care for have families who they see on a regular basis. My husband and I often get invited to their family celebrations and the men come along to our family events. “I couldn’t imagine living any other way and I believe that the benefits are huge, really helping to improve quality of life...”

For Further Information please contact:

Email: [sharedlivesmanchester@pss.org.uk](mailto:sharedlivesmanchester@pss.org.uk)

Telephone: 0161 236 1097

Website: www.pss.org.uk