

Report to:	STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING BOARD
Date:	23 May 2018
Reporting Member / Officer of Single Commissioning Board	Brenda Warrington - Executive Leader, Executive Member Adult Social care and Wellbeing Sandra Whitehead Assistant Director Adult Services
Subject:	SHARED LIVES ACCESS AGE CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED POLICY CHANGE
Report Summary:	<p>This report seeks permission to enter into consultation to change the Shared Lives Service age of entry from 18 years of age to 16 years of age. This is part of a wider piece of work with Shared Lives Plus which is the national Shared Lives umbrella body and the Department of Education (DoE) to expand the offer of Shared Lives services to younger people. This is supported by a DoE grant to assist in supporting the development.</p> <p>This policy change is part of the Adult Services Transformation Programme. It was highlighted that Shared Lives could provide an alternative service to young people leaving care from the age of 16+. This could be as an alternative to other traditional services offered via Children's Services which could prepare young people for independent living. It would also support the work of Shared Lives in terms of encouraging a smoother transition of young people with complex needs transitioning into Adult services.</p>
Recommendations:	To undertake consultation to change the Shared Lives age of service entry from 18 to 16 years of age on the basis set out in this report.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	<p>The average gross cost of a long term Shared Lives placement is £405 per week which is partially offset by housing benefit income for working age adults.</p> <p>The proposed policy change outlined in this report will enable the Shared Lives placements to be made from the age of 16. Whilst it may not be possible to charge service user contributions under the age of 18, a Shared Lives placement is a considerably lower cost alternative than a Children's independent sector residential care placement which currently averages £3,600 per week depending on the needs of the individual.</p> <p>Recent work undertaken alongside the Social Care Institute of Excellence (SCIE) also highlighted wider benefits to the health and social care economy in terms of reduced attendances in both primary and secondary healthcare.</p> <p>The potential financial benefits of this proposed policy change will be quantified once the outcome of the consultation is known.</p>
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough	The Shared Lives Scheme is regulated under Health and Social Care Act 2008. The change to access age to the scheme attracts the duty to consult on the proposed change.

Solicitor)	The legal requirements as to consultation must be followed to ensure that the decision that is made is lawful and takes into account the consultation.
How do proposals align with Health & Wellbeing Strategy?	The proposals align with the Developing Well, Living Well programmes for action.
How do proposals align with Locality Plan?	<p>The service is consistent with the following priority transformation programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling self-care • Locality-based services • Planned care services
How do proposals align with the Commissioning Strategy?	<p>The service contributes to the Commissioning Strategy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowering citizens and communities • Commission for the 'whole person'.
Recommendations / views of the Health and Care Advisory Group	Reported directly to the Strategic Commissioning Board.
Public and Patient Implications:	Carers banded at level 1 could lose income which could impact on willingness to be carers. It is anticipated that the impact and probability of this being very low.
Quality Implications:	<p>Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council is subject to the duty of Best Value under the Local Government Act 1999, which requires it to achieve continuous improvement in the delivery of its functions, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.</p> <p>Shared Lives Services will continue to be regulated by CQC, and are subject to internal audit and quality inspection.</p>
How do the proposals help to reduce health inequalities?	Via Healthy Tameside, Supportive Tameside and Safe Tameside.
What are the Equality and Diversity implications?	<p>The proposal will impact positively on some of the protected characteristic group(s) within the Equality Act. These include people with Disability, Mental Health, Age (16-18 year olds) and Carers.</p> <p>The service will be available to Adults who meet Adult Services access criteria regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, gender re assignment, pregnancy/maternity, marriage/ civil and partnership.</p>
What are the safeguarding implications?	None
What are the Information Governance implications? Has a privacy impact assessment been conducted?	A privacy impact assessment has not been completed. Services adhere to the Data Protection Act when handling confidential personally identifiable information.

Risk Management:

Risks associated with the change in access age are anticipated to be low.

The primary risks identified relate to the failure to appropriately communicate with all stakeholders on the proposed change thus impacting on the validity of information to inform decision making.

Access to Information :

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting:

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report seeks permission for Tameside Shared Lives service to change their age of service from 18+ to begin working with young people from the age of 16+. This is part of a wider piece of work with Shared Lives Plus which is the national Shared Lives umbrella body and the Department of Education (DoE) to expand the offer of shared lives services to younger people. We are currently trying to secure a grant from DoE to support this work.
- 1.2 This policy change is part of the Adult Services Transformation Programme. It was highlighted that Shared Lives could provide an alternative service to young people leaving care from the age of 16+. This could be as an alternative to other traditional services offered via Children's services which could prepare young people for independent living. It would also support the work of Shared Lives in terms of encouraging a smoother transition of young people with complex needs transitioning into Adult Services through early engagement with services and families.
- 1.3 Working with young people leaving care is one element of the transformation plan which is aimed at improvement and diversification of the service through expansion of provision, creating better choice and outcomes for young people while also working with partners to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of community based services. This will better support the wider health and social care system as we continue to integrate health and social care services.

2. SHARED LIVES BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Shared Lives is a regulated social care service delivered by Shared Lives carers. The service is registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Shared Lives (formerly Adult Placement) has been providing support to individuals in Tameside since 1992. The service is managed and delivered by the Council.
- 2.2 The aim of Shared Lives currently is to offer people aged 18 years and older, an alternative and highly flexible form of accommodation and support. Individuals who need support are matched with compatible Shared Lives carers who support and include the person in their family and community life.
- 2.3 Shared Lives primarily works with adults with learning disabilities but more recently have started to diversify and promote services to other vulnerable groups such older people who for example have dementia. Shared Lives carers are approved to provide a range of community support services to individuals who meet the access criteria for Adult Services.
- 2.4 There are currently 125 service users being supported by 88 carers (April 2018). Any person aged 18 or over who meet eligibility criteria for services may use Shared Lives. This report seeks permission to amend the entry age for Shared lives to 16.
- 2.5 Shared Lives carers provide a range of services dependent upon the needs and health of the individuals. The scheme currently provides:

Long Term Support	This service enables people to live with approved Shared Lives carers on a long-term basis, sharing in the ordinary lifestyles of the carers and their families.
Interim Placements	A service user can live with a Shared Lives carer for up to 12 months. These placements will focus on promoting skills and independence, with a view to moving towards more independent living. There is the potential for interim placements to become long term placements after 12 months based on assessed needs.
Respite	A service enabling users to take either regular short breaks or one off periods e.g. to allow for convalescence after a hospital stay or for family members to go on holiday or have a break from their caring role.
Day Support	This is a flexible service enabling people to do activities of their choice, to use community facilities or to visit approved Shared Lives carers in the carer's home.
Emergency placements	We are also able to provide emergency respite placements, dependent on carers available and the needs of the service user.

2.6 All individuals using Shared Lives have been assessed by Adult Services and are then referred to Shared Lives as part of their commissioned support plan to meet eligible needs.

2.7 Shared Lives carers are self-employed. To become approved, they are DBS checked and complete an in-depth assessment and approval process, and are required to undertake regular mandatory training. They are paid expenses for the care and support provided and qualify for a Carers tax relief.

3. POLICY CHANGE CONTEXT

3.1 Shared Lives Plus were awarded a £365,000 grant to embark on a new project to develop and raise the profile of Shared Lives to young care leavers. This project is funded by the Department of Education (DoE) as part of the Children Social Innovation Programme, which funds innovative and different approaches in care which are currently limited in this area. Tameside Shared Lives scheme is being considered as a pilot area for this project and if successful will receive a small bursary to achieve its aims.

3.2 The project aims to offer Shared Lives to young people leaving care who have learning or physical disabilities and/or additional needs which have not been met by traditional service provision. These are likely to be young people who have not entered into further education or training or started work and would benefit from experiencing a home-based care environment. They would receive support in developing life skills as well as help to manage risk and make informed choices about their future direction, including education and career pathways. This support will help them move successfully into independent living where appropriate. The Council would also like to extend this support to young people leaving care who may not have additional needs and meet social care access criteria. We propose to offer Shared Lives arrangements as an alternative to other accommodation options such as supported lodgings and stay put arrangements.

3.3 Adult Services are experiencing a significant increase in young people with very complex needs coming through transition (30+ over the next three years). This is placing significant strain on existing services and is resulting in an increase in people being placed out of area in placements that can meet the young person's needs. This is disruptive for the young person and their family and is at a significant cost to the Council. Shared Lives provides an option for young people to access care and support with a family locally at a significantly reduced cost.

- 3.4 There are also a number of young people with complex needs that reside with foster carers and as they transition into Adult Services they may require placement in residential care which can be out of area because there may not be Shared Lives carers who can meet their needs. Part of the Shared Lives transformation programme is to work with foster carers to transition with the young person to become Shared Lives carers to offer continuity and stability for the young person. The Shared Lives banding report (presentation at May 2018 SCB) financial recompense to carers providing complex support. This policy change would assist with smoothing the transition process with foster carers at a much earlier point in the transition process.
- 3.5 Shared Lives can make positive, lasting changes in people's lives. Evidence shows that a Shared Lives arrangement can improve health outcomes (SLP Health Report 2015). The Shared Lives sector nationally has seen a 31% growth over three years despite the downward pressures on social care. The positive outcomes experienced by people using Shared Lives is reflected in a 92% good or outstanding rating awarded to Schemes by CQC. Tameside is currently due an inspection and was inspected on the previous system and received a rating of meets all standards.
- 3.6 Over 200 Shared Lives carers responded to a 2015 survey, which asked how the health of the people they supported had been improved by being in a Shared Lives household. The survey discovered that 73% had received positive feedback from an NHS colleague about the difference their support was making to an individual's health and 87% of people who responded said that Shared Lives has had a positive effect on the mental health of the person/s they were supporting.
- 3.7 Key national policy drivers in health and social care have placed well-being and independence at the centre of support which sets an ambition for a strategic shift in how services are delivered. The Care Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to promote individuals well-being by preventing and reducing the need for care and support. Evidence shows that young people who are living in a high cost inappropriate setting often feel isolated. Enabling increased choice for people to move into family-based Shared Lives placements promote independence, reduce isolation and act as an early intervention approach to prevent admission to acute settings later in life.
- 3.8 We have consulted with Children's Services and discussed the legislative requirements of this change of policy and have only identified specific training and screening requirements of carers and staff in terms of working with young people 16-18 years of age. The identified training requirements are detailed in **Appendix 1** of this report. Our intentions are to have a specific targeted recruitment campaign for carers interested in working with young people and will link with Children's Services training and development programme in terms of providing necessary training and development requirements.
- 3.9 This report also supports the Council's corporate priorities of caring and supporting adults and young people by working with health services to ensure efficiency and equity in the delivery of excellent services to meet the needs of the community.

4. FINANCE

- 4.1 The service is attempting to secure a small grant over a three year period to help provide support to this piece of work. We also hope to discuss match funding with Children's Services to also contribute to the available resource available to fund this development. The service will explore and present predicted cost avoidance across Children's and Adult's as part of the final decision report.

- 4.2 There is potential for significant cost avoidance through this project in terms of reducing out of area placements of young people with complex needs and also in addressing increasing demand from looked after children and young people leaving care.

5. EQUALITIES

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken see **Appendix 2**. It is anticipated that the proposal does affect certain protected characteristic group(s) within the Equality Act. We do not envisage the impact of this change in policy will be significant in terms of the Equality Act. Shared Lives services are provided to all individuals who meet Adult Service's access criteria so this is a qualifying requirement for access.

6. PROPOSED CONSULTATION PLAN AND METHOD

- 6.1 The service is currently working with the Policy, Performance and Communications Team to put several questions on the Big Conversation for public consultation on this policy change. Specific proposed questions are:
- We are proposing to expand Shared Lives to people aged 16+. Do you think it's a good idea? Agree/neutral/disagree as the options to tick.
 - And then a follow up asking, 'have you got anything else to add?' which would be free text.
- 6.2 In order to consult with the public we propose to use The Big Conversation to establish wider population views. Consultation will also be undertaken with the Children in Care Council to seek their views and comments on the proposals.
- 6.3 The consultation plan and documents, including public information and a description of the proposed work (see **Appendix 3**) and questionnaire (see **Appendix 4**) have been developed with support from the Policy, Performance and Communications team to ensure that best practice is followed.
- 6.4 Communication approaches will be made accessible in terms of people who have sensory or cognitive difficulties. Where appropriate individual meetings can be arranged or people can contact the scheme via telephone also.
- 6.5 A combination of focus groups and drop in sessions will be arranged to run in parallel with Carer Forums over a range of day / evening sessions. These will allow individuals to speak openly about their concerns with staff and management to inform the final report.
- 6.6 The consultation will also be posted on the Big Conversation online to ensure the wider public are made aware of the proposed changes and can contribute to the consultation process. Foster Carers and young people will be directed to the dedicated consultation web pages supporting the Shared Lives consultation.
- 6.7 All feedback will be used to inform the final report, recommendations and final Equality Impact Assessment.

7. RISK

- 7.1 There are a number of risks identified as a result of undertaking this review:

Risk	Consequence	Impact	Likelihood	Action to Mitigate Risk
Failure to effectively communicate policy change to customers and public	This would impact on the validity of the consultation and results, impacting on decision making	High	Low	To ensure that a range of different consultation approaches are used to fully inform consultees and subsequent decision making. To offer support for individuals who require support understanding or answering questions.
To ensure that individuals being consulted with have capacity and fully understand what they are being consulted on.	This would impact on the validity of the consultation and results, impacting on decision making. Impact on response rates.	High	Low	To offer a range of consultation methods including face to face discussions to ensure support is available to respondents.

7.2 To try and mitigate these risks Shared Lives will utilise a range of consultation and engagement methods with all stakeholders to ensure they are fully informed and engaged in the decision making process and to ensure that decisions are informed and valid.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 As stated on the report cover.

Mandatory Training
<p style="text-align: center;">Safeguarding Children Awareness Training Level 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(There is a requirement to update Safeguarding every 3 years)</p> <p>This training is endorsed by the Tameside Safeguarding Children Board</p> <p>The course will raise awareness of child abuse and neglect and its impact on Children and Young People. It will enable participants to understand their role in keeping children safe and look at ways to promote and safeguard the welfare of Children & Young People. It will identify children who may be more vulnerable to abuse and neglect and provide guidance of how to respond to a Child's disclosure of abuse.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Understanding Child & Adolescent Development</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(No requirement to update)</p> <p>This course has been specifically designed to enable Carers to develop their knowledge of Child Development Theory in order to assist in identifying Children and Young People's needs and make appropriate responses to those needs.</p> <p>This course will help participants to recognise the developmental milestones throughout childhood and adolescence and increase awareness of the factors that can hinder healthy development. Participants will have increased understanding of the holistic nature of Children's and Adolescent's developmental needs.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">“Voice and Experience of the Child” – Effective Communication with Children & Young People</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(No requirement to update)</p> <p>This course will increase awareness of the importance of communicating on an effective level with Children and Young People. In addition it will cover the importance of observation, active listening and involvement of Children & Young People.</p> <p>It will look at the ways in which we can ascertain the wishes and feelings of Children and Young People and reflect those in our recordings and communications. It will promote good practice when working with Children and Young People and emphasise the importance of empowering them to have “a voice” in the decisions that affect their lives.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Introduction to First Aid (Morning Event)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(There is a requirement to update every 3 years)</p> <p>This course will raise awareness of the priorities in Emergency situations and how to respond to various incidents of Emergency. These will include responding to an unconscious individual (including seizures), choking, shock, bleeding, burns & scalds. It will look at the administration of CPR and participants will have opportunity to practice the CPR process on the resuscitation doll.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Attachment Training Level 1 (Date 1)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(No requirement to update)</p> <p>This course will provide an understanding of attachment theory and attachment styles. It will help participants to recognise some of the ways in which attachment difficulties present in the behaviour of Children & Young People and also provide ideas for managing behaviour that stems primarily from the development of unhelpful early attachments.</p>

Equality, Diversity and Identity for Looked After Children

(No requirement to update)

This course will introduce participants to the principles of working with equality, diversity and identity. It will provide an overview of the Law and help to explore our own values and where they come from. It will consider the influence of prejudice and stereotyping and look at how we can best meet Children's needs and promote a positive sense of identity.

Advanced Attachment (2 Parts)

(No requirement to update)

"It is an expectation that participants will have attended the Level 1 Training or received some basic training in Attachment Theory and presentation before accessing this course"

The Course will briefly revisit the origins of various Attachment Presentations in Children & Young People. It will enable participants to explore and practice a "child-centred" behaviour management approach to challenging oppositional/withdrawn behaviour in Children & Young People and relate that approach to the emotional and physical development needs of Children & Young People.

Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness

(No requirement to update)

This course will provide an understanding of what Child Sexual Exploitation is and how children can be vulnerable to it. It will help participants recognise the signs of Child Sexual Exploitation in children and young people and support them in how to respond appropriately to safeguard potential or actual victims of Child Sexual Exploitation.

Anti-Bullying /Cyber Safety Training

(No requirement to update)

This course will raise awareness about Bullying...what it is and the different types of Bullying. This course will enable participants to increase their understanding of on-line Bullying and E-Safety and the link between Bullying and Hate Crime. It will explore good practice when dealing with Bullying and best ways to support children and young people to keep themselves safe.

Promoting and Managing Family Contact

(No requirement to update)

This course will provide an understanding of the meaning and significance of contact for the Young Person, their family and significant others.

It will provide an understanding of the role and responsibilities in supporting contact and the importance of being in touch with the young person's needs and promoting a "child focus".

Participants will gain awareness of how they can help Young People to manage their feelings, how they can promote the well-being of young people in their care and support them to develop a positive identity.

Behaviour Support

(No requirement to update)

This course will provide an understanding of positive approaches to take when presented with behaviour from young people. It will help participants to recognise challenging behaviour and gain understanding of the reactions of yourself and others in crisis situations. The course will provide

awareness of positive and proactive responses to use in crisis situations.
<p style="text-align: center;">Healthy Weight Brief Intervention Awareness</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(No requirement to update)</p> <p>This course will raise awareness of the causes and implications of being above a healthy weight. It will recognise the approach used to identify the clinical level of overweight/obesity in young people and empower and support carers to talk to young people about their weight and share key messages for weight management.</p> <p>Booking Link:</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sex Relationship Education</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(No requirement to update)</p> <p>This course has been specifically designed to meet the needs of Foster/Connected Person Carers and Residential Workers.</p> <p>This course will enable participants to increase their understanding of the changes that children go through during puberty and help them to talk positively about relationships, sex and contraception according to the age of the young person. It will support participants to deal with their own embarrassment of approaching / discussing these areas and break down some of the common barriers in a non-threatening and fun way.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Self-Harm Awareness</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(No requirement to update)</p> <p>This course aims to increase awareness and understanding of self-harm behaviours in young people. It will explore myths and realities regarding self-harm and will examine potential triggers and risk factors. Participants will consider both practical and emotional responses to young people who harm themselves with the aim of developing good practice.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Drug and Substance Awareness</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(No requirement to update)</p> <p>This course will raise awareness of the main substances that young people experiment with. It explores why young people use drugs and alcohol and where they get it from</p> <p>and explores the potential signs and symptoms of drug and alcohol use. The course will provide opportunity to explore how to talk to young people about drugs and alcohol and provide information about how to make a referral to Lifeline Branching Out.</p>

**Tameside & Glossop Single Commissioning Function
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form**

Subject / Title	Shared Lives Scheme Change of service age to 16+
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Team	Department	Directorate
Shared Lives	Adult Services	People

Start Date	Completion Date
30/04/18	

Project Lead Officer	Mark Whitehead
Contract / Commissioning Manager	
Assistant Director/ Director	Sandra Whitehead /Stephanie Butterworth

EIA Group (lead contact first)	Job title	Service
Mark Whitehead	Head of Service	Adults
Alison White	CQC Registered Manager	Shared Lives, Long Term Support and Reablement
Giovanna Surico- Hassall	Assistant Team Manager	Shared Lives
Sue Ward	Team Manager	Shared Lives
Sean Lawton	Team Manager	Shared Lives
Adam Lomas	Social worker	Shared Lives
Reyhana Khan	Programme Manager	Transformation Adults

PART 1 – INITIAL SCREENING

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for all formal decisions that involve changes to service delivery and/or provision. Note: all other changes – whether a formal decision or not – require consideration for an EIA.

The Initial screening is a quick and easy process which aims to identify:

- *those projects, proposals and service or contract changes which require a full EIA by looking at the potential impact on any of the equality groups*
- *prioritise if and when a full EIA should be completed*
- *explain and record the reasons why it is deemed a full EIA is not required*

A full EIA should always be undertaken if the project, proposal and service / contract change is likely to have an impact upon people with a protected characteristic. This should be undertaken irrespective of whether the impact is major or minor, or on a large or small group of people. If the initial screening concludes a full EIA is not required, please fully explain the reasons for this at 1e and ensure this form is signed off by the relevant Contract / Commissioning Manager and the Assistant Director / Director.

<p>1a.</p>	<p>What is the project, proposal or service / contract change?</p>	<p>Tameside MBC Shared Lives service to change their age of service from 18+ to begin working with young people from age 16+. Shared Lives currently supports 129 adult service users utilising 84 approved carers from across all areas of Tameside. Through a service review as part of the Adult Services Transformational Fund it was highlighted that Shared Lives could provide an alternative service to young people leaving care from the age of 16+. This could be as an alternative to other traditional services offered via Children's services which could prepare young people for independent living, or smooth the transition from Children's services to adult services. Working with young people leaving care is one element of a transformation plan aimed to improve the service and expand its provision, creating better outcomes for service users while also working with partners to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of community based services. This will better support the wider health and social care system as we continue to integrate health and social care services.</p> <p>Shared Lives is proposing to offer the following services to young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitional Placements - for those transitioning from fostering care to shared lives placements. • Respite Care – short breaks • Interim placements – as an alternative to foster arrangements / residential placements. • Alternatives to supported lodgings placements. • Peer support model – This is a pilot idea working with Jigsaw Housing Association. Jigsaw has provisionally agreed to provide prospective Shared lives Carers with two bedroom properties to give them the physical space to provide support. We aim to identify previous care leavers to become Shared Lives Carers and provide peer support for young people leaving care. • Day support / kinship support.
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1b.	<p>What are the main aims of the project, proposal or service / contract change?</p>	<p>Shared lives may be able provide a cost effective alternative to semi supported accommodation for young people. Shared Lives are currently moving exploring a banded payment system with the high needs band being set at £405.54 per week. This is comparatively more cost effective than a cheapest cost semi- supported accommodation which is currently £850 per week. Another additional benefit is that Shared Lives can offer people an alternative personalised and highly flexible form of care. It enables vulnerable young people to live full and active lives, and have their health and well-being promoted within a normal family setting. People using Shared Lives are part of a family and share in all aspects of everyday life. They are encouraged to explore their aspirations and ambitions, regardless of their perceived limitations. They and their families are fully involved with making decisions that affect them and matching individuals to their potential carers is a key element of the Shared Lives Service.</p> <p>Shared Lives outperforms all other forms of regulated social care (CQC annual report 2015/16) and makes significant financial savings when compared to other forms of regulated care (Social Finance: Investing in Shared Lives 2013). The cost for an individual with mild to moderate learning disabilities to use Shared Lives instead of another form of regulated care could be on average £26,000 cheaper per year (around £8,000 for people with mental ill health). These figures are cash savings and do not include any additional monies or efficiencies which often come with a Shared Lives match.</p> <p>The Key concern with implementing a change in service is a potential impact to the support services provided to the adult service users. Shared Lives carers would be able approved to support any potential service users referred to the scheme and supporting young people within their home may impact on potential adult service users with assessed needs being appropriate matches. This may lead adult service users to require alternative provision. This however would be mitigated as Shared Lives carers will be recruited specifically to support young people leaving care.</p>
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1c. Will the project, proposal or service / contract change have either a direct or indirect impact on any groups of people with protected equality characteristics? Where a direct or indirect impact will occur as a result of the project, proposal or service / contract change please explain why and how that group of people will be affected.				
Protected Characteristic	Direct Impact	Indirect Impact	Little / No Impact	Explanation
Age	x			Shared Lives Services are targeted at the adults age group (18+). This change would target all people aged 16+

Disability	X			Service Users for Shared Lives have services commissioned due to qualifying needs.
Ethnicity		x		Shared Lives Service users come from a range of ethnic backgrounds.
Sex / Gender			X	Shared Lives is not a gender specific service.
Religion or Belief			X	
Sexual Orientation			X	
Gender Reassignment			X	
Pregnancy & Maternity			X	
Marriage & Civil Partnership			X	

Other protected groups determined locally by Tameside and Glossop Single Commissioning Function?

Group (please state)	Direct Impact	Indirect Impact	Little / No Impact	Explanation
Mental Health	X			Shared Lives supports service users with mental health needs
Carers	X			Shared Lives services provide respite for carers.
Military Veterans		X		There are some Shared Lives Carers who are Military Veterans
Breast Feeding			X	

Are there any other groups who you feel may be impacted, directly or indirectly, by this project, proposal or service / contract change? (e.g. vulnerable residents, isolated residents, low income households)

Group (please state)	Direct Impact	Indirect Impact	Little / No Impact	Explanation

Wherever a direct or indirect impact has been identified you should consider undertaking a full EIA or be able to adequately explain your reasoning for not doing so. Where little / no impact is anticipated, this can be explored in more detail when undertaking a full EIA.

1d.	Does the project, proposal or service / contract change require a full EIA?	Yes	No
		X	
1e.	What are your reasons for the decision made at 1d?	Proposed service changes have a direct impact on Service users with the protected characteristics of Disability, Mental Health, Age and Carers.	

If a full EIA is required please progress to Part 2.

PART 2 – FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

2a. Summary

2b. Issues to Consider

2c. Impact

2d. Mitigations *(Where you have identified an impact, what can be done to reduce or mitigate the impact?)*

<i>Impact 1 (Describe)</i>	<i>Consider options as to what we can do to reduce the impact</i>
<i>Impact 2 (Describe)</i>	<i>Consider options as to what we can do to reduce the impact</i>
<i>Impact 3 (Describe)</i>	<i>Consider options as to what we can do to reduce the impact</i>
<i>Impact 4 (Describe)</i>	<i>Consider options as to what we can do to reduce the impact</i>

2e. Evidence Sources

2f. Monitoring progress		
Issue / Action	Lead officer	Timescale
<i>Required</i>	<i>Required</i>	<i>Required</i>

Signature of Contract / Commissioning Manager	Date
Signature of Assistant Director / Director	Date

Tameside MBC Shared Lives Information on Shared Lives Access Age Policy Change.

What is Shared Lives?

Shared Lives, is a regulated form of social care delivered by Shared Lives Carers who are approved by a Care Quality Commission (CQC) registered scheme. The CQC is the independent regulator of all health and social care services in England and monitors and checks all care services to make sure they meet fundamental standards of quality and safety.

The aim of Shared Lives is to offer people an alternative and highly flexible form of accommodation and support. Individuals who need support, and choose Shared Lives, are matched with compatible Shared Lives Carers who support and include the person in their family and community life.

All Shared Lives Carers are subject to *Disclosure and Barring Service* (DBS) checks and complete an assessment and approval process, and are required to undertake regular mandatory training. They are paid expenses for the care and support provided.

Service Currently Offered by Shared Lives

The services Tameside MBC Shared Lives currently offers are;

- **Long-term** - This service enables people to live with approved Shared Lives Carers on a long-term basis, sharing in the ordinary lifestyles of the carers and their families.
- **Interim** - A service user can live with a Shared Lives Carer for up to 12 months. These placements focus on promoting skills and independence, with a view to moving towards more independent living. There is the potential for interim placements to become long term placements after 12 months based on assessed needs.
- **Respite** - A service enabling users to take either regular short breaks or one off periods e.g. to allow for convalescence after a hospital stay or for family members to go on holiday or have a break from their caring role.
- **Day Support** - This is a flexible service enabling people to do activities of their choice, to use community facilities or to visit approved Shared Lives Carers in the carer's home.
- **Emergencies** - We may also be able to provide emergency respite placements, dependent on Carers available and the needs of the service user.

Current Age Access Policy

Tameside MBC Shared Lives is currently offers a service to people aged 18 and over who meet the criteria for adults social care services.

What are the Proposed Changes?

Tameside MBC Shared Lives service is aiming to expand their provision to support young people aged 16+. We aim to provide a range of different services working with young people who will transition into adult services, and also with young people leaving care to provide a step down service to help support their preparation for independence. The areas we aim to support are as follows:

Transitional Placements: Improving the transitional pathway for young people with additional needs leaving care, this will mean that young people and foster carers will have an understanding that Shared Lives could be a future option should they wish to pursue this. Young people could be identified from 15, introduced to concept of Shared Lives placement and begin transition at 16 if this is their chosen future support.

Respite Care: We could also offer respite placements for young people from 16+ as an alternative to fostering family links. This would also allow service users with additional needs who would be

eligible for respite from Adult Services to be introduced to carers who could provide support post 18.

Interim Placements: Interim placements with Shared Lives families as an alternative to foster arrangements / residential placements for young people ages 16+ using the traditional Shared Lives model. Young people accessing this service would not need to have additional needs and may be eligible to use Shared Lives as an alternative to supported lodgings post 18.

Alternative to supported lodgings: This is a potential option for young people leaving care who do not meet the criteria for adult services. Shared lives placements could be funded as an alternative to supported lodgings/ bedsits provision which is currently offered.

Day Support/ Kinship support: Commissioned day support hours for care leavers to provide support to develop links with local community and develop tenancy management skills within their independent accommodation. This will be time limited to support young people into independence.

We hope that by developing Shared Lives as a service for young people we can achieve positive outcomes through earlier planning at what can be a very stressful time for a young person and their family. Shared Lives can support young people to have new and rewarding experiences in the community, develop independence skills and confidence and support families while a young person goes through a transition from children's to adult services.

We hope that by providing services for young people we can offer stability in periods of high stress which will reduce the need for additional services in later life.

Shared Lives For Young People Leaving Care and Young People With Additional Needs Transitioning Into Adult Services.

What is Shared Lives?

Shared Lives, is a regulated form of social care delivered by Shared Lives carers who are approved by a CQC registered scheme. Individuals who need support are then matched with compatible Shared Lives carers who support and include the person in their family and community life. Shared Lives primarily work with adults with learning disabilities but more recently have started diversifying into offering services to other vulnerable adults. A lot of Shared Lives Schemes around the country are offering to place young people aged 16+ who are in the transition process and are developing pathways which would create systematic planning for young people as they move into adult services.

Types of Service Offered

- **Short-term** - where carers look after young person for a few weeks or months, while plans are being made for the next steps, e.g., family breakdown.
- **Short-breaks** - where disabled young person can enjoy a short stay on a pre-planned, regular basis with a shared lives carer while their parents have a respite break.
- **Long-term placement** – the person remains with a shared lives carer until they are ready to move on into their own home, supported accommodation or to live with another Shared Lives family.
- **Day Support** – offering day services from the Shared Lives home to develop skills away from the family environment and develop new skills and independence.

How Shared Lives supports Transition

Shared Lives is relatively unknown to children's services but currently provides some 13,500 arrangements for adults in the UK through 153 schemes. In Tameside we currently have a network of 83 carers supporting over 130 service users. These arrangements may be long-term arrangements, short breaks or day support. Shared Lives have primarily offered services for adults with learning disabilities, but over the last couple of years, many schemes around the UK have diversified into other areas e.g. young people under 18 years old, unaccompanied asylum seekers, vulnerable young adults, young mother and baby, etc

Shared Lives schemes can provide transition arrangements from as early as 16 years old and can start to look at potential matches from 15 years old. Shared Lives Plus (national organisation) have employed a Transition Development Officer, Denise Nygate, whose role is to look at the ways that Shared Lives for opportunities for young people in transition.

Their role has included promoting Shared Lives within children's services, leaving care services, supporting Shared Lives schemes to work with 16-18-year-olds and developing networks across the country. Tameside MBC is currently working with Shared Lives Plus to develop their offer to young people across the borough.

As part of the transition development, CQC and Ofsted have put together guidance to help Shared Lives Schemes register with CQC for anyone under 18 years old but not any lower than 16 years old.

Flexible outcomes for young people

Developing Shared Lives as a service for young people can achieve better results through earlier planning at what can be a very stressful time for a young person and their family.

Shared Lives can enable young people to live in ordinary homes with families who can include other young people. Shared Lives can support young people to have new and rewarding experiences in the community, develop independence skills and confidence and support families while a young person goes through a transition from children's to adult services. It can also provide families with a much-needed break during the school holidays.

Shared Lives also provides short term placements for young people to prevent them from becoming homeless by offering an alternative to fostering/ Children's homes at 16 years old when it can be hard to place young adults for a couple of years. Agreements have been in place where the Leaving Care Teams have agreed payments up to 21 years old.

Supporting a range of ages

Shared Lives can negotiate with the Leaving Care Team (LCT) on funding a placement. Some LCT fund through to over 21 years old. Some LCT offer support with the top up benefits to enable the young person to be in a Shared Lives home until they reach 18 years old and their benefits can be established.

Shared Lives can provide support from 16 years old ongoing into adulthood. If a foster carer cannot provide the Staying Put arrangement, then some schemes have offered support for the young person to stay in a family home until they are ready to move into their accommodation through working with the LTC and personal assistants.

Shared Lives Carers.

All Shared Lives Carers are self-employed in their role. They have an agreement to carry out certain duties and responsibilities in their role. Shared Lives Carers get a payment for the placement, the payment is made up payment for the SL carer as well as housing benefit for their bedroom and costs for food and utilities. All Shared Lives Carers are registered with and contracted to a Shared Lives Scheme. Shared Lives Scheme visit every three months for support and monitoring visits and training is an ongoing part of the work offered.

Carer Approval process

- All shared lives carers go through an approval process similar to that of a foster carer as set by national standards- CQC.
- The focus is on caring for an adult rather than a child.
- Schemes always aim to complete the assessment in a sensitive way and take in to account prospective carers knowledge, experience and training.
- The assessment may be for a named service user or to be available to support unknown service users
- References from DBS, GP, work and personal references will be taken and Mandatory training completed e.g. safeguarding adults and scheme practicalities. This is usually done via e learning and one to one training with a scheme social worker.
- Once the assessment is complete, a report will be written up, and Carers will be asked to comment on it.
- The assessment is presented to the Shared Lives panel who invite Carers along or the assessor can present on their behalf.
- There may be an expectation that Carers would complete the Care Certificate.
- Foster carers need to apply to be assessed and approved as Carers by a registered Shared Lives scheme. This may be up to 6 months and many foster carers feel that they are currently doing this role they cannot understand why they will need to complete a different assessment.

- Even though Foster Carers and Shared lives assessment may be seem very similar, the aim of the Shared Lives assessment is to help foster carers understand their different role which is helping the young adult prepare to leave the family home
- Assessment is looking at choices, capacity and abilities to support a young person to move on from a Shared Lives scheme where appropriate or to study help the young person to have a life outside of the family home, connecting the young person with their community and support to develop and grow as a young adult
- Training takes place both pre assessment and post assessment. Pre-assessment covers safeguarding under adults safeguarding policy, mental capacity, court of protection, etc. Post assessment training may be additional training that will help Carers in their role to support the young person to become more independent. It can cover offering health passport training, person centred planning, budgeting skills, letting go and moving on, etc

There are some differences between Fostering and Shared Lives?

- Shared Lives carers are expected to provide a clean, warm furnished bedroom which the client will rent from you.
- The person will have their own key to the house
- As the person is renting the room from the carer they may ask for their room to be more personalised to their tastes.
- People living in Shared Lives cannot share their room with another person unless they are a couple and wish to do so.
- The scheme will pay you a fee for the care and support Carers offer to the person. This is solely for Shared Lives Carers.
- The person will receive their benefits directly in to their bank account and will be assisted to manage these by the Shared Lives carer. This includes DLA
- The person will be responsible for buying any personal possessions such as clothing, electronic equipment and holidays from their money.
- The overall income for the placement maybe different. However as the person will hold their money the Shared Lives carer will receive less but will not be responsible for the client's personal expenditure.
- Shared Lives carers are classed as self-employed and are entitled to tax concessions.
- Shared Lives carers are not entitled to Carers Allowance for the person staying with them and are unlikely to be entitled to any means tested state benefits.
- Shared Lives carers are required to keep records of finances, medication and key incidents and present them when requested
- Shared Lives carers will be asked to show they have supported the person with decisions and choices and some schemes are asking Court of Protection if the person does not have capacity to manage their money on their behalf. This area would be discussed as part of the adult social care assessment
- The most important aspect is supporting the service user in an age appropriate way as an adult rather than as a child

Transition from fostering

At 18 young people experience a major change in moving from children's to adult services. Easing the transition for children can help provide more positive long term outcomes and stable placements. They may be eligible to continue to receive the care and support in a familiar environment, For this to happen two strands need to come together:

- The child needs to be assessed by the transitions social worker as having eligible care and support needs to be funded as an adult, and it is there best interest to remain living with carers (if a transition from foster placement to Shared Lives placement).
- If the young person does not meet the eligibility needs for adult social care, then a Staying Put arrangement maybe offered within a Shared Lives Placement.
- If there is no family members for the young person then an IMCA- independent mental capacity assessor- may be brought in to make sure that the young person has a clear

independence in making the decision to take a Shared Lives Placement, If the person lacks capacity under the Mental Capacity Act an IMCA may still be brought in as good practice to show that the best interest of the young person is considered

- It is hoped that Tameside MBC Shared Lives schemes may start the process earlier than their 18th birthday. Tameside MBC Shared Lives schemes are looking at starting transition as early as possible so that the young persons are clear on what choices and opportunities can be available to all parties.

SHARED LIVES CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS

Q1. Please indicate which of the following best describes your main interest in the Shared Lives consultation (Please tick one box only):

- ☐ I am a Shared Lives Carer (Go to Q2)
- ☐ I am a Shared Lives service user (Go to Q3)
- ☐ I am a relative or friend of a Shared Lives service user. (Go to Q3)
- ☐ I am a member of the public (Go to Q5)
- ☐ I work for Tameside MBC/T&G CCG (Go to Q5)
- ☐ Other (please specify below) (Go to Q5)

Q2. Which Shared Lives services do you currently provide? (Please tick all that apply)

- ☐ Long Term - Where people to live with approved Shared Lives Carers on a long-term basis, sharing in the ordinary lifestyles of the carers and their families
- ☐ Interim – Where a service user can live with a Shared Lives Carer for up to 12 months with a view to moving towards more independent living
- ☐ Respite – Where service users are enabled to take either regular short breaks or breaks of one off periods based on an allocated number of respite nights,
- ☐ Day Support - a flexible service enabling service users to do activities of their choice, to use community facilities or to visit approved Shared Lives Carers in the carer's home
- ☐ Emergencies – respite or interim provision due to emergency circumstances.

(Go to Q4)

Q3. Which of the following services provided by Shared Lives do you, your relative or friend use? (Please tick all that apply)

- ☐ Long Term - Where people to live with approved Shared Lives Carers on a long-term basis, sharing in the ordinary lifestyles of the carers and their families
- ☐ Interim – Where a service user can live with a Shared Lives Carer for up to 12 months with a view to moving towards more independent living

- ☐ Respite – Where service users are enabled to take either regular short breaks or breaks of one off periods based on an allocated number of respite nights,
- ☐ Day Support - a flexible service enabling service users to do activities of their choice, to use community facilities or to visit approved Shared Lives Carers in the carer's home
- ☐ Emergencies – respite or interim provision due to emergency circumstances.
- ☐ Don't Know

Q4. What impact will the proposed changes to the Shared Lives age of access (i.e. change from working with people from 16 rather than 18 years of age) have on you as a carer / or on you, your relative or friend who uses the Shared Lives service?

(Please state in the box below)

(Go to Q5)

Q5. Do you have any other comments you wish to make about the proposed changes the Shared Lives Service in general? (Please state in the box below)

ABOUT YOU

Q6. Are you.....?

- ☐ Male ☐ Female
☐ Prefer to self-describe ☐ Prefer not to say

Q7. What is your age? (Please state)

Q8. What is your postcode? (Please state)

Q9. What is your ethnic group? (Please tick one box only)

White

- ☐ English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
☐ Irish
☐ Gypsy or Irish Traveller
☐ Any other White background (Please specify)

Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups

- ☐ White and Black Caribbean
☐ White and Black African
☐ White and Asian
☐ Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background (Please specify)

Black / African / Caribbean / Black British

- ☐ African
☐ Caribbean
☐ Any other Black / African / Caribbean background (Please specify)

Asian / Asian British

- ☐ Indian
☐ Pakistani
☐ Bangladeshi
☐ Chinese
☐ Any other Asian background (Please specify)

Other ethnic group

- ☐ Arab
☐ Any other ethnic group (Please specify)

Q10. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? Include problems related to old age. (Please tick one box only)

- ☐ Yes, limited a lot

☐ Yes, limited a little

☐ No

Q11. Do you look after, or give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of either, long-term physical or mental ill-health / disability or problems due to old age? (Please tick one box only)

☐ Yes, 1-19 hours a week

☐ Yes, 20-49 hours a week

☐ Yes, 50+ hours a week

☐ No