

7 January 2019

Agenda Item: 6

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE & DIRECT SERVICES**

### **SHARED LIVES SCHEME**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview on the progress of the Shared Lives Scheme with a particular focus on the performance of the scheme between 2016 and 2018 and the factors that have had an effect on this.

#### **Information**

##### **Background**

2. Shared Lives is a highly successful way of helping vulnerable people to live with families, and live ordinary lives in the community. It is different to other types of care arrangements and demonstrates positive outcomes for people who use it and for carers who support them.
3. The Shared Lives scheme provides long term placements, carer breaks, and day time care for vulnerable adults across Nottinghamshire. The scheme is registered with the Care Quality Commission and has been judged as providing a “good” service across all five key areas of inspection.
4. The cost of a long term Shared Lives Placement is made up of a number elements. There is a basic cost that is based on the needs of the customer being placed. The customer is liable to pay rent to the Shared Lives carer. This usually takes the form of Housing Benefit, unless the customer has savings which are over the threshold for Housing Benefit. The customer is also liable for a contribution of £8 per night or £56 per week towards the cost of their food and utility bills. The net average cost of a long term placement in Shared Lives is £379 per week.
5. The average weekly cost of long term placements for younger adults is shown in the table below. A long term shared lives placement can show considerable savings against the other forms of long term care and has been demonstrated as having excellent outcomes for individuals placed.

<b>Accommodation type</b>	<b>Average weekly cost 2018 £</b>
Younger Adults Residential Care	1,380
Younger Adults Supported Accommodation	666
Shared Lives	379

6. The budget for the Shared Lives Team in 2018/19 is £357,000. This is the cost of providing the management, assessment and monitoring of this service.
7. A person becomes a Shared Lives carer by applying to be assessed by the scheme. The assessment looks at their suitability to become a carer, the views of the family around the prospective carer and the house and environment that will be provided as a home to a vulnerable person.
8. Shared Lives is different from other types of long and short term accommodation because it takes place in the carers home with the vulnerable adult moving in with the carer and their family and taking part in everyday family life with that carer.
9. The Shared Lives scheme has grown steadily over the past two years. Below are tables which illustrate the position in October 2016 and the current position.

As at October 2016, the position was as follows:

Long term households	24
Short break households	29
Day support only households	2
Support carer households	8
Total number of households	63
Total number of customers supported of which:	71
2 are older people	
2 are mental health	
67 have learning disabilities	

The position at November 2018 is as follows:

Long term households	29
Short break households (long term carers who also provide short breaks)	20 (15)
Day support only households	2
Support carer households	12
Total number of households	63
Total number of customers supported	82

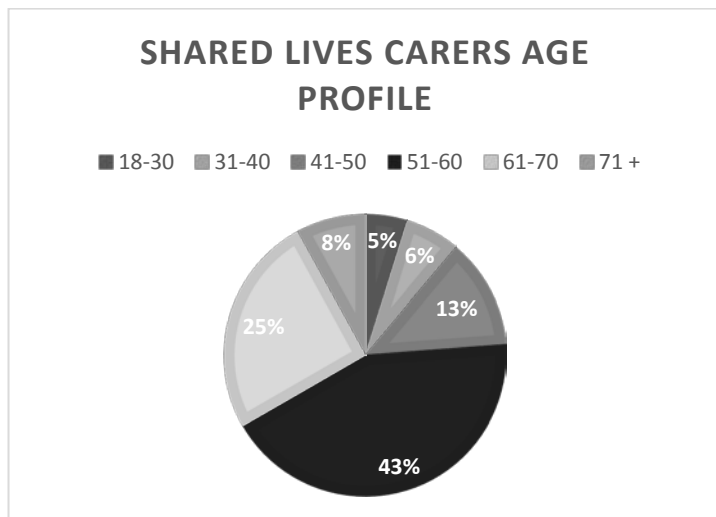
### **Growth of the scheme over the period October 2016 to November 2018**

10. The tables above show that although the total number of households has not increased the number of long term placements has increased and overall the total number of

customers supported has increased over the period. The reason why the total number of households has not increased is partly explained by a change in the way households are counted. As can be seen in the table above the number of households providing short breaks appears to have gone down from the 2016 figure. The number (15) shown in brackets is the number of long term households who also provide short breaks. These carers provide a person with long term accommodation and also provide breaks for one or more other people.

11. Additional resources were agreed in 2016 to support the growth of the scheme over a three year period. The sustained growth of the scheme was to provide 30 new carer households over the three year period with one third of these being to provide long term care arrangements. In order to do this there is a need to be able to complete robust assessments within a three to six month timescale. To date there has been a net increase in long term household placements of five.
12. The recruitment of two additional posts to support this expansion was undertaken in 2016, one being the Senior Coordinator post. This post was to lead the expansion of the scheme through marketing and new applicant assessment enabling the Shared Lives Coordinators to concentrate on customer matching, and the support, monitoring and on-going training of carers.
13. During this period the scheme has approved four new long term Shared Lives households who were previously foster carers. This has enabled the customer to remain within the carer's household and transition into adulthood within the same caring relationship. Currently there are four more foster carer households being assessed to become Shared Lives carers. This will take the number of long term carers up to 32.
14. Shared Lives placements for former fostering arrangements do provide stability for the individual placed, and they are highly cost effective compared with residential care or supported living arrangements. Foster carers who become approved as Shared Lives carers do sometimes continue to provide foster care to children as well as providing a Shared Lives placement.
15. The savings against other types of long term accommodation are shown in the table above (**paragraph 5**). In the case of former fostering arrangements, moving to a Shared Lives arrangement could be described as cost avoidance. If the foster carer was to ask the person to leave, alternative living arrangements would need to be sourced. This would result in an additional financial burden being placed on the County Council. If the four placements which transferred from Fostering arrangements to Shared Lives arrangements had all broken down and residential or supported housing options sourced the additional burden on the County Council could have been within the range of £59,000 to £208,000, based on the average cost of either supported housing or residential care.
16. Assessments of new carers are being carried out by six team members. There are currently eight being assessed with four people waiting for assessments to start. In addition to the four people waiting, the Shared Lives Scheme has been approached by two neighbouring local authorities seeking to have carers assessed within Nottinghamshire to provide Shared Lives placements for vulnerable adults from their respective counties which they will continue to fund. The scheme is currently in negotiation about the cost of undertaking the assessment and on-going monitoring of these placements.

17. The age profile of Shared Lives carers (n=63) is shown in the chart below, the largest group being in the 51-60 age range and the smallest group being in the age range 18-30. It is significant that almost one third of the carer group are over the age of 60. For the majority of carers, becoming a Shared Lives carer often happens in retirement from other occupations. This brings a wealth of experiences into the scheme and helps to enhance the quality of life for the vulnerable adults that they support.



### **Factors affecting the delivery of the project 2016-2018**

18. The following factors have all had an effect on the delivery of the project:
- the resignation of the Team Coordinator (Team Manager) December 2016. This created the need for the Senior Coordinator to set up into the role of manager temporarily, reducing the capacity to undertake assessments.
  - the appointment of a new Team Coordinator starting April 2017 following a successful recruitment process, this released the Senior Coordinator back to her substantive role.
  - Team Coordinator off work between August 2017 and November 2018 due to circumstances beyond the control of the County Council. The service appointed the Senior Coordinator to the Interim Manager post to cover during the absence. It was not anticipated that the absence would continue for such a protracted period.
  - during the period August 2017 to November 2018 the scheme was unable to undertake temporary recruitment to cover the absence at either Senior Coordinator level or at or Coordinator level due to budgetary constraints.
  - the recruitment of carers slowed as a result of not having the Senior Coordinator in post during this period. The decision was taken that all Coordinators undertake an assessment as part of their role and include this alongside their monitoring, training and matching role.

- in November 2018 permission was granted to undertake the temporary recruitment of a Coordinator (Grade 5) until March 2019 to support the monitoring and review of carers and placements.
- between April 2017 and November 2018 there were nine carer household resignations. The reasons for these resignations included: the death of a customer; frailty/old age of carer; carer moved house; change of caring responsibility for family; move on of existing customer and the carer retired from scheme.

### **Key achievements over the last year and plans for the coming year**

19. Over the last year the following key achievements have been made:

- continue to host the quarterly Regional Shared Lives meetings
- send out a bi-monthly newsletter to all our carers giving up to date information about the scheme, training, and events. This is well received by our carers.
- very successful summer and Christmas events for carers and the people they support being run each year. These are run on a self-funding basis at minimal cost to the Council.
- regular training updates provided to carers. A new on-line training package has been developed with the support of the Health and Safety department for fire and safety in the home training.
- all carers are encouraged to take advantage of free 'flu vaccinations to protect themselves and their families.
- payments to carers for work carried out is now done through a weekly rather than a monthly pay run. This is very positive in supporting carers who provide short breaks.
- a carer and a coordinator attended the Shared Lives Plus conference in October as part of their development and the development of the scheme.
- coordinators have taken on lead roles for safeguarding, mental capacity, assisting people to move, and medication.
- team member have been working on accessible information including an accessible version of the licence agreement.

20. Our plans for the coming year include the following:

- continue to expand and grow the scheme and meet growth targets for the Shared Lives project.
- to build carer capacity to support hospital discharge within the scheme, utilising funding for an additional 0.5 fte Coordinator post through Winter Pressures funding.

- new marketing campaign to seek new carers work particularly with people requiring long term placements
- review and update all our policies and procedures
- meet with the Transitions team to develop a clear transitions pathway into Shared Lives.

### **Other Options Considered**

21. No other options were considered.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

22. To update the Committee on progress of the Shared Lives Scheme with a particular focus on the performance of the scheme between 2016 and 2018 and the factors that have had an effect.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

23. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

24. There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

1) That the Sub-Committee continues to support the expansion of the Shared Lives Scheme to increase the volume of Shared Lives placements available to vulnerable adults in Nottinghamshire.

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**Constitutional Comments (SLB 21/12/18)**

25. Improvement and Change Sub-Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

**Financial Comments (CT 24/12/2018)**

26. The financial implications are contained in paragraph 24 of the report.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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