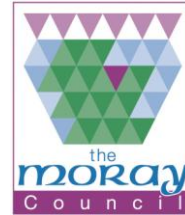


Moray Shared Lives



Edition No 10 – April 2015

Welcome to the April 2015 edition of our Shared Lives Service Newsletter. It is lovely to see the Spring flowers blooming, and the weather is offering greater opportunity for our carers to get out more with the people who use our service.

Over the winter they were still very busy, and I wanted to highlight a slightly different activity, that one of our carers has offered over the colder months.

Shirley Welford, one of our carers from Westfield by Duffus, has been creating different craft projects and everyone has said they are really enjoying them. They have created reminder boards, completed a Paris themed project together and now they are busy compiling personalised birthday books. These are to be used by Shirley, as a reminder of important family events e.g. birthdays, weddings etc and they will plan future craft projects round these dates.

Shirley also uses the internet to bring her projects to life and they use Google Earth sometimes to take a virtual tour round places they have spoken to each other about. This has been very popular with the people who attend the service, and we have received positive feedback at recent reviews.



Overnight respite through Shared Lives.....

We are starting to build up the overnight care again, as Hilary Williamson near Spey Bay, is no longer able to offer this part of her service. Two of our new carers are offering overnight care and support:

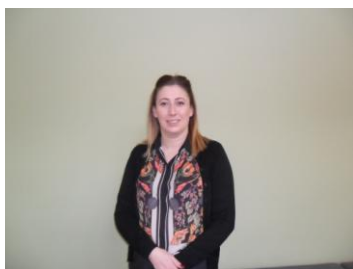


Nanette Grant, from Portgordon: now ready to meet people for taster visits, to see if they would like to use her overnight service. Nanette has a great deal of experience working with all ages of vulnerable adults and has access to a car. Her home offers views of the countryside and the sea can be seen in the distance.



Sonja Creswell from Forres: also ready to offer taster visits. Sonja has a small amount of overnight respite to offer each month, and varied dates of day support. She stays centrally in Forres, but does not have access to a car. She has a lot of experience working with people who have learning disabilities and is well used to accessing local public transport with the people she currently supports in her other employment. Her respite room and bathroom is situated upstairs, and there is a toilet downstairs.

We now also have two new staff members within our office support team.....



Natalie Falconer was featured in our last edition, and she is now responsible for supporting the West Team with Shared Lives referrals, promotion etc.



Elaine Bowler - Joined us in January and works part time. She is also part of the office support team, and has worked within local government and community Care for many years. We hope she will enjoy her new role as Shared Lives Community Care Assistant and I am sure she will also be an asset to our Team. At the moment, Elaine will support Diane to cover the East Team Shared Lives, promotion etc.

A third member of staff will hopefully be starting shortly, to cover Ruth Mitchell who started in January, but is no longer working for Shared Lives.

We are all based at the Moray Council Annexe in Elgin, though both Natalie and Elaine intend to spend some time each month in our other offices, to get to know the referring teams.

Planned events for 2015.....

We have spoken to our carers and their service users and families, to ask what type of events they would like for 2015. We have a more varied age range of adults using our service for support now, so we wanted to ensure this year's events could be enjoyed by everyone.

Most people felt that a summer outing and annual Christmas Party would be enjoyed by all. Thank you very much for all your suggestions and feedback. It is important to us that you all have the opportunity to input into any decisions we make.

We have now booked the two events as follows:



Summer Event: Logie Steading. July the 1st

(afternoon). We will meet at Logie Steading. Some transport will be available, for those who cannot arrange family or friends to bring them along. Please let your carer know, as soon as possible, if you may need us to arrange this for you. We will be able to enjoy the venue together, including the cafe and the small garden area if you wish. There will be also refreshments available on the day. Further information on times, cost etc, will be included in the invitations, which will be issued nearer the time.



Christmas Party: This has been booked for the afternoon of the **4th of December**. The venue for the Christmas Party this year will be in the activity room (off the cafe area) at **Elgin Community Centre**. Invitations will be sent out with further details, nearer the time.

Contact numbers/emails for the support team are still the same: 01343 563450/ sharedlives@moray.gov.uk. Emailing the team email with any referrals and queries will ensure they are picked up by the team member who is in the office and this will avoid delays in replies.