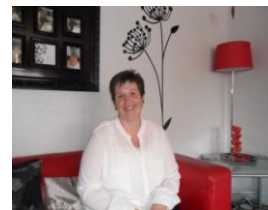


Newsletter No 8 –Autumn edition

Welcome to our latest edition of the Shared Lives Newsletter. We have been busy over the last few months, promoting the service and recruiting new carers to join our team. I am delighted to say that 4 applicants have successfully passed through our recruitment and selection process.

Welcome to our new team members.....

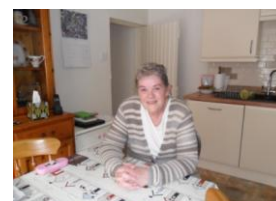
SONJA CRESWELL, FORRES - Sonja has been passed to provide both a respite/short breaks and day support service. She has experience in working with people who have learning disabilities and has an excellent knowledge of her local area. She takes great pride in finding ways to support people and in finding ways for them to enjoy time spent out in the community and indoors.



PUPAK HAGHITI, FINDHORN - Pupak has been passed to provide a day support service and hopes to offer one or two days per week. She also has a care background and has supported several people with various conditions, including dementia. She is a glass artist and would enjoy sharing her artistic talents with people, should they wish to try one of her craft project ideas. She also enjoys cooking, the outdoors and is happy to visit places locally.



LYN COLVIN, BURGHEAD - Lyn has many years experience working with people who have learning disabilities. She has also supported people with various conditions, including dementia. Lyn enjoys reading, cooking and getting out into the community.



CAROLINE GLASS, TROVES, ELGIN - Caroline also has several years experience supporting people with learning disabilities. She enjoys finding new activities and places of interest locally. She is keen to share her new build home with people and wants to offer respite/short breaks and a day support service.



Current availability update:

NB: Eleanor Black, from Kinloss: – still has places available for day support on a Thursday and Saturday. She may also be able to offer short periods of respite. People who attend her service will need to be quite mobile, as her toilet is upstairs. Eleanor joins our team with considerable experience of supporting vulnerable adults. She enjoys cooking, walking and getting to know people well, in order to tailor her service to their needs. Eleanor is currently supporting 3 people through her Shared Lives Service and hopes to build up to providing a full time care service as soon as possible.



Annual inspection update.....

Thank you to everyone who spoke to our new Care Inspector, or who completed questionnaires during our recent annual inspection. Services are graded out of a possible maximum 6. The Moray Shared Lives service has again been given an overall grade 5. To view our report, please see the link on our section of the Moray Council website. It will be made available shortly. The inspector was particularly impressed with the innovative ways in which we encourage participation from our carers, service users and other stakeholders.

A couple of people thought that holiday cover when our carers are on leave would be helpful. Unfortunately, this is not something we can offer as all our carers are full to capacity and have no spaces to accommodate this. We also match people carefully to their own carer to take into account geographical area, hobbies etc.

Carer continued professional development opportunities over the last year.....

I would like to highlight the development opportunities offered to our carer team this year.

Our carers have access to a selection of training opportunities, including first aid, adult and child protection, dementia and autism awareness etc. As well as this, our carers also have access to various sites with free e-learning to update their skills/knowledge. We also try to offer opportunities to be part of more unusual initiatives. This year our carers have taken part in the following:

- Hilary accompanied me to Glasgow to help me facilitate a workshop for Shared Lives Plus.
- Angela has taken part in the IRRIS Pilot light pathway workshops where we looked at Self Directed Support and how we can look at social micro enterprise for people who have an assessed need for care support.
- Liz and one of her service users, Pat, had the opportunity to come along to the annual SL+ conference, where they helped me with a workshop called “you are never too old to have fun!”



Shared Lives Christmas Party

Thursday 4th of December in the afternoon – New Elgin Hall

We have been busy organising our Christmas Party. We will send out invites nearer the time to advise you all of the exact times, format of the afternoon etc.

The Jack n Jill playgroup children are looking forward to coming along to sing a selection of Christmas Carols and they will be helping us to create some crafts too. We also have a harpist coming along to play for us.

We are always happy to receive ideas and suggestions on ways we can improve our care service. Please contact the Shared Lives Team on sharedlives@moray.gov.uk or telephone us on 01343 563450, should you wish to discuss any aspect of the service we provide.