

# Telford Family Based Shared Care Scheme

## Leaflet for Parents:

### **What is (Family Based) Shared Care?**

It is care provided in a Shared Carer's home for a disabled child referred by the Disabled Children's Team (DCT). This can be day care or overnight.

It increases the disabled child or young person's opportunities, by making new friends outside of the family circle, getting involved in activities they enjoy and growing in independence.

It also gives parents a break from caring or a chance to do something with another child in the family that the disabled child might not enjoy or cope with.

### **How could my child get Shared Care?**

If your child is known to the DCT, then the worker will assess your child's needs. Where applicable he/she will make a referral to the DCT Resource Panel who will consider a request for shared care.

### **What do I need to know about Shared Carers?**

- Shared carers are often people who have experience of caring for disabled children.
- They attend a training course and have to be approved by a panel. If a child has specific needs we would want a carer to be trained in that area. Their training and development is ongoing.
- In order to provide the safest care, Shared Carers have to undergo a series of checks: CRB, NSPCC, CAMHS and Telford & Wrekin checks.
- They have to give a variety of references: personal references, work references and a medical reference.
- They also undergo a detailed assessment by a social worker, prior to approval. They are given regular supervision and support and training and occasional unannounced visits to ensure good standards of care is being provided.
- Shared Carers are reviewed yearly and parents and children are consulted for this review.

### **If the DCT Resource Panel agree that my child should have Shared Care, what happens next?**

The Shared Care Social Worker will want to know more about your child to ensure that we make a link with carers who can meet your child's needs. We will ask you to give information in a questionnaire about your child's needs. We will ask about your child's likes, dislikes, routines etc. Please ask for help with this if you need it. We will also give you information about the carer for you and your child's worker to consider.

## **What happens when a suitable Shared Carer is identified?**

You will be invited to come and meet them, without your child. This is a chance for you to find out more about the carers and see their home. This is usually done with the Child's Worker and the Shared Care Social Worker.

You will be given time to go away and think about it. If you and the Shared Carers are happy and want to go ahead then we would arrange for the Shared Carers to come and meet your child in your home.

## **Introductory Period**

If all parties are happy to continue, then we would arrange a series of short visits for the child to the carers' home. This will include parents at first and then move on to short stays for the child without parents, building this up at the child's pace. Details of this would be clarified in a meeting with parents and a three month agreement made.

This introductory period can go on for three months if needed (or longer) to give everyone a chance to get to know each other and make sure the child is feeling comfortable with the arrangements.

## **If all is going well?**

Usually at the end of three months we would come together and complete a Placement Agreement form signed by everyone. This outlines the basic responsibilities of each person. Parents maintain parental rights at all times and are required to sign medical consent forms for emergency medical treatment and ongoing medication.

This would be done every twelve months, or sooner if someone asks for this.

## **What if I am not happy**

At any time in the introductory process (or even after that) if you are unhappy about something, talk to the carer or to the child's worker. If it is something that can be sorted out, then we would aim to do that. We will endeavour to resolve any issues that arise.

If you would like to discuss anything in this leaflet please get in touch with

**Disabled Children's Team** – Telephone number: 01952 567300

**Family Placement Team** - Telephone number: 01952 385888



**Telford & Wrekin**

C O U N C I L