

Shared Lives Tackles Health Inequalities.



As the Reasonable Adjustments flag is being introduced across NHS services, The Sandwell Shared Lives scheme has shared information with Shared Lives Carers, via the newsletter, and individuals who access the scheme, via a focus pack.

The team produced a 'reasonable adjustments focus pack' and shared this in an easy read format with individuals. The pack consisted of definitions of reasonable adjustments and The Equality Act 2010, how reasonable adjustments can support them in health and social care services and a letter, originating from Mencap, to share with their GP services of reasonable adjustments they identify that they would require. The team supported some individuals to complete the questionnaire that helps them to recognise what reasonable adjustments they require. This is a continuous conversation as it has been included in the appraisal paperwork for individuals, to encourage them to recognise and request reasonable adjustments they are entitled to.



Last year, the scheme shared Accessible Information Standard details with individuals, and additionally contacted the health and social care services linked to each individual to identify their communication needs and preferences. This resulted in an individual, Josh, receiving an invite to his annual learning disability health check in an easy read format. Furthermore, the GP surgery has sent more correspondence to Josh in an easy read format detailing what the annual health check consists of and more. Josh had not attended a health check prior to this and found it useful for this reasonable adjustment to be made, to meet his communication needs and ease anxieties as he was able to prepare. Josh told his carer that he found this helpful and assisted him in his recent annual learning disability health check.