

# SANDWELL SHARED LIVES

# CARER

# NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER EDITION 2025

As the weather warms up and we start to see a brighter summer, we would like to share with you your summer carer newsletter.

The year is flying by and we are over halfway through already! We are enjoying working with you all and seeing your Shared Lives placements flourish and grow.

The team have been busy developing the service and supporting you all in your roles as Shared Lives Carers. Throughout this newsletter, you will see some of the things we have been up to and information that may support you in your role.

The team remain dedicated to providing you with support and advocating on your behalf. If you require any further support or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the team.

*The Sandwell  
Shared Lives  
Team* 

## GET IN TOUCH:

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Bromwich, B71 4JA.

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

Catch up with the Shared Lives Team

In the Know - Information Point

Good News!

Carer 'Ketchup' Meeting!

Welcomes, Thank You's and Reminders.

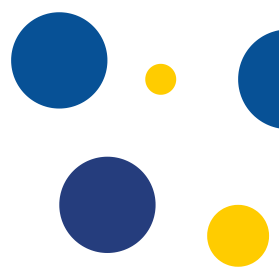


Sandwell  
**Shared  
Lives** 

  
**HOME & AWAY**  
WITH SANDWELL  
SHARED LIVES



# CATCH UP WITH THE SHARED LIVES TEAM



As always, the Sandwell Shared Lives Team have been very busy with raising the Shared Lives profile, establishing links with other organisations, and promoting Shared Lives Week and Learning Disability Week.

Take a look at some of our 'best bits' in the recent months, where we have:

**Held a stall at an event with the Learning Disability Community Nurses at the new Midland Metropolitan University Hospital.**



**Held a raffle to raise funds for social events for Shared Lives carers.**



**Attended a care show event, where we participated in CQC focused seminars.**

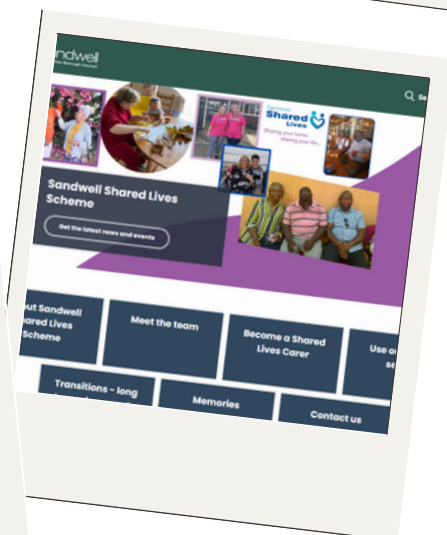


**Held a 'Tea & Toast' carer meeting**



**Brought the Sandwell Shared Lives scheme into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with a brand new website and social media page!**

**This was used to promote the service throughout Shared Lives week and gained over 4,000 views!**



**View the website here:**

**<https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/shared-lives/>**

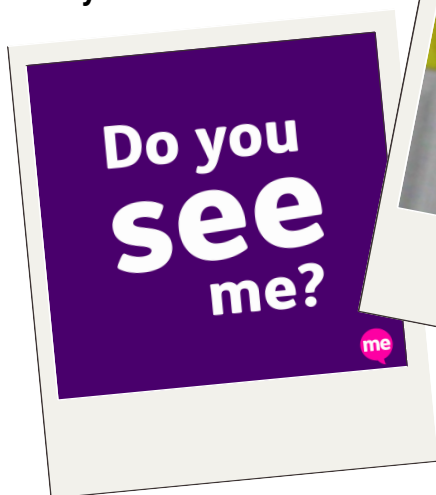


# CATCH UP WITH THE SHARED LIVES TEAM

Recreated 'The Assembly', as seen on ITV and BBC, with Chief Executive of Sandwell MBC Shokat Lal.

This was to celebrate LD Week and raise the awareness of people with a Learning Disabilities living in Sandwell, under the 'Do You See Me?' campaign.

Individuals were able to ask Shokat questions and spend some time having their say.



## A MESSAGE FROM DIANE COX, REGISTERED MANAGER

I would like to wish all carers and individuals a delightful, yet safe summer!

At Shared Lives, we have been hard at work behind the scenes. We are pleased to announce the recruitment of new carers, and we encourage our existing carers to join us for the upcoming Carers Ketchup sessions in September. Carers meetings provide an excellent support network, allowing you to connect with the Shared Lives team and engage with other carers, as there's likely another carer residing in your area.

Also, don't forget to check out our revised website page and follow our Facebook page– we would love to have your likes and comments to boost the page.

Enjoy your summer, and we look forward to catching up with you soon.





# IN THE KNOW - INFORMATION POINT



## BIN CHANGES FROM SEPTEMBER 2025



From 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025, there will be changes to your bin collections, in line with new legislation. This is to improve the way in which materials are recycled. There will be alternating weekly collections between your refuse and recycling bins. Additionally, you will be provided with a new recycling bag for paper, cardboard and carton items.

Ensure you are up to date with the bin changes and find out what goes in your bins here:

<https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/bins-recycling/goes-bins>



## PEN CYCLE

For people who use insulin injections, Pen Cycle is a recycling scheme that allows pre-filled insulin pens to be recycled. There are specific pens that can be recycled and you can find out more at your local Boots store.

See more information here: <https://www.boots.com/boots-recycling-scheme/pencycle-recycling-scheme>



## EASY READ SAFEGUARDING MATERIAL



Safeguarding can be a complex matter for many people. Mencap have put together an easy read library for information to help people to 'keep safe'. There is many different guides such as:

- Ticket scams
- Identify theft
- Bullying / Cyber Bullying
- Online Safety
- Abuse

You can download and share with people you support today : [https://www.mencap.org.uk/search?f%5B0%5D=all\\_content\\_type\\_solr%3Aeasy\\_read\\_page](https://www.mencap.org.uk/search?f%5B0%5D=all_content_type_solr%3Aeasy_read_page).

If you require any specific information or guides, please tell the team and we can support you to source this.

James has recently started his respite placement. James had never previously accessed respite services and asked the team for a placement that would be different to his home life. Coming from a small family, as an only child, James primarily spends his time with his mom and dad.

We matched James with a busy and large family household. James and his family utilised allocated day respite sessions to get to know the carers, their family members and the household. When James was ready he trialled his first overnight stay and it was a success!

Now settled in his placement, James and his Shared Lives Respite Carers are making plans of what they can do together during future respite stays. James has progressed and developed his independence hugely. We cannot wait to continue to see James develop and become more confident!



**GOOD NEWS!**



A huge congratulations to Josh who has bagged his first job!

Josh completed work experience alongside his college, Queen Alexandra College. Josh has been determined to get a job after college and has worked really hard to achieve this.

Josh's long-term Shared Lives Carers are incredibly proud, and so are we!

Well done, Josh.



# CARER

# ~~CATCH UP~~

# Ketchup

# MEETING

Join us at the breakfast buffet at Half Penny Farm to catch up. It would be great to see as many of you there as possible. It is a great opportunity to meet other carers, chat with the team and enjoy breakfast on us!

Supported individuals are welcome to join, but will have to purchase their own meals.

Details are:

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September - 9:30am**

**Half Penny Farm, Joseph Street, Oldbury, B69 2AQ.**

Please confirm attendance via Paige or Natalie by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September.

View what's on offer of the breakfast menu here:

<https://www.farmhouseinns.co.uk/pubs/west-midlands/half-penny-farm/menu>





**WELCOME!**

We would like to give a big warm welcome to Emmie and Paul who have been recently approved to provide a long-term placement.

They were recently approved by the Herefordshire Shared Lives Panel. **Welcome to the Sandwell Shared Lives family!**

We would like to give a big thank you to **Julie** who attended our most recent Sandwell Shared Lives Panel as a panel member, providing a carer prospective to the assessment process.



We would also like to thank **Karen** for attending our recent carer meeting. It was great to catch up with you.

**DON'T FORGET!**

**Please inform the scheme of:**

- Changes to medications or GP/Consultants
  - Changes to contact details-Changes in social worker
  - Slips, trips, falls and near misses
  - Medication errors
  - Training completed with other organisations
  - Gas safety certificate
  - SL Plus membership and insurance completion
- Remember it is important we have the most current and up-to-date information stored as a CQC regulated service.**

**Dates for the Diary:**

**MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025      BANK HOLIDAY**



In case of emergency during Council closures, please refer to emergency contingency plans and/or contact the Emergency Duty Team on 0121 569 2355 or go onto the main Sandwell Council website for any other emergency contact numbers.