

Harrow Shared Lives Scheme Policy & Procedure No. 8

Ending a Shared Lives Arrangement

People's needs and wishes and goals can change over a period of time. The Harrow Shared Lives Scheme can adapt to these changes through its individual planning and review processes and/or can support people to leave a Shared Lives (SL) arrangement when this is appropriate. It is therefore important that everyone who is involved in a SL arrangement understands the circumstances under which the arrangement can be brought to an end, and what the procedure is for this.

How will this happen?

Everyone who is beginning a new SL arrangement is provided with a SL Agreement in a language or format that they can easily understand. This sets out the terms and conditions for receiving the service and the arrangements for changing or ending it and is signed by you, your SL Carer, your Care Manager and your SL Worker.

There are all sorts of reasons why a SL arrangement might come to an end, for example:

- if you have developed your daily living skills and are ready to move on to greater independence
- if your SL Carers break their Carer's Agreement
- if your SL Carers' health or family circumstances have changed so they can no longer provide Shared Lives arrangements
- if you repeatedly break the house rules at your SL Carer's home
- if you or other people who signed the SL Agreement do not keep to the responsibilities in it
- if you are moving away to another area
- if your needs have changed
- if you just want a change or to do something different

If you or anyone else is thinking about ending a SL arrangement, a review is usually held to discuss this and work out the options that are available for you and to help you make decisions and plan ahead. (However, if your own safety or well-being of the SL Carers or others in their household is thought to be at risk by the continuation of the arrangement, the arrangement may be ended without a review.)

If an arrangement is to end you will usually/wherever possible continue to be supported by your SL Carers until an agreed alternative is found. The normal period of notice for ending an arrangement is 8 weeks. This can be varied if you and everyone else who have signed the SL Agreement agree. We will work with you and/or your family / representative and other service providers to make sure that any changes happen as smoothly as possible, and that there is continuity in the care or support you receive. We will also make sure you have the opportunity to keep up friendships.

If you are asked to leave a SL arrangement because your SL Carer can no longer meet your needs or your behaviour makes it impossible for the service to help you, the situation will be properly explained to you and/or your family or representative. You will be told about any action you may take to appeal against this decision and will be put in touch with an independent advocate if you wish.

See these other policies and procedures and documents for further information on:

- Making choices and decisions
- SL Agreement
- Service User Plan
- Individual planning, monitoring and review
- Risk assessment and risk management
- Safeguarding against abuse and neglect
- Aggression towards SL Carers and workers in the service
- Working with and responding positively to people who challenge services
- Joint working and information sharing
- Carer's Agreement
- Supporting and reviewing SL Carers