

## Harrow Shared Lives Scheme Policy & Procedure No. 12

### Cultural and Religious Customs

The Harrow Shared Lives Scheme welcomes people from minority ethnic groups and different social, cultural or religious backgrounds. We understand the importance of responding to your individual needs, beliefs and preference and of maintaining links with your cultural and faith communities as and when you wish.

#### How would this happen?

In Shared Lives (SL) arrangements you will be able to continue to live your life in keeping with your own cultural and religious customs. The following areas will be covered when we are considering these particular needs and preferences in order to match you with SL Carers who can support you appropriately:

- communication
- food and drink, including preparation and other dietary or fasting needs
- personal care
- clothing
- daily routines
- opportunities for worship
- important rituals and festivals
- contacts within the communities
- whether you need support from someone of the same sex (regardless of personal care or not)

If we are unable to find a suitable SL Carer we will let you know the reasons.

Your cultural and religious customs will be respected and responded to by:

- making sure we understand the issues, including having access to guidance from your family / community workers / members of the same or similar cultural or faith communities when necessary;
- making sure that your SL Carers are properly informed about these;
- including information about your customs and beliefs and preferences in your Service User Plan, and about how the SL Carers will support you in maintaining these.

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

- Standards of conduct and practice
- Making choices and decisions
- Communication
- Food safety and nutrition
- Referrals
- Matching
- Personal Care
- Daily life and inclusion in the community
- Contact with family and friends
- Service User Plan
- Individual planning, monitoring and review
- Equal opportunities
- Palliative care, death and dying
- Training and development