Bridgend County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
www.bridgend.gov.uk

Shared Lives Scheme Proposals Bridgend County Borough and the Vale of Glamorgan

Consultation Paper

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1. What are the aims of this consultation?

The aims of the consultation are to:-

- Make sure that all interested parties are aware of the Council's proposals.
- Provide clear information so that people understand why the changes are necessary.
- Make sure that people have all the information they need to come to an informed opinion.
- Encourage people to give their views on the proposal (outlined in section 4).
- Make sure people know how to submit their views.
- Collect feedback and consider this before a final decision is made.

2. When will the consultation take place?

The Council will be collecting feedback for 12 weeks from 30th of March to the 21st of June 2026 (see section 6 for how to give your views).

As well as this document, throughout this consultation period, Council officers will be contacting individuals involved with the Shared Lives Scheme. This includes both individuals supported by the service, and Shared Lives Carers providing the care and support to these individuals, as there are proposals that impact both groups. During these meetings officers will explain the proposals to individuals face-to-face as well as meeting with Shared Lives carers. There will be a chance to ask questions.

After the consultation ends, all feedback will be analysed and a report will be presented to the Council's Cabinet. This report will set out the proposal and final recommendations, taking into account the feedback from the consultation.

3. What is the Shared Lives Scheme and what are the proposals?

The Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend Shared Lives scheme partnership is available for people aged over 18 with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health problems or dementia, who have been assessed as having a need for accommodation and support... The Shared Lives scheme aims to enable people with a disability to experience ordinary family life, supported by Carers who have been assessed and trained to provide a person-centred approach to the care and support provided. . The Shared Lives scheme recruits carers from all walks of life People of any age or background, single people, couples and families with or without children are welcome to apply and join if they have a spare room and time within their homes and lives to support an individual who needs it. Payment for the care provided is tax free and paid on a monthly basis. For more information on the Shared Lives Scheme click here.

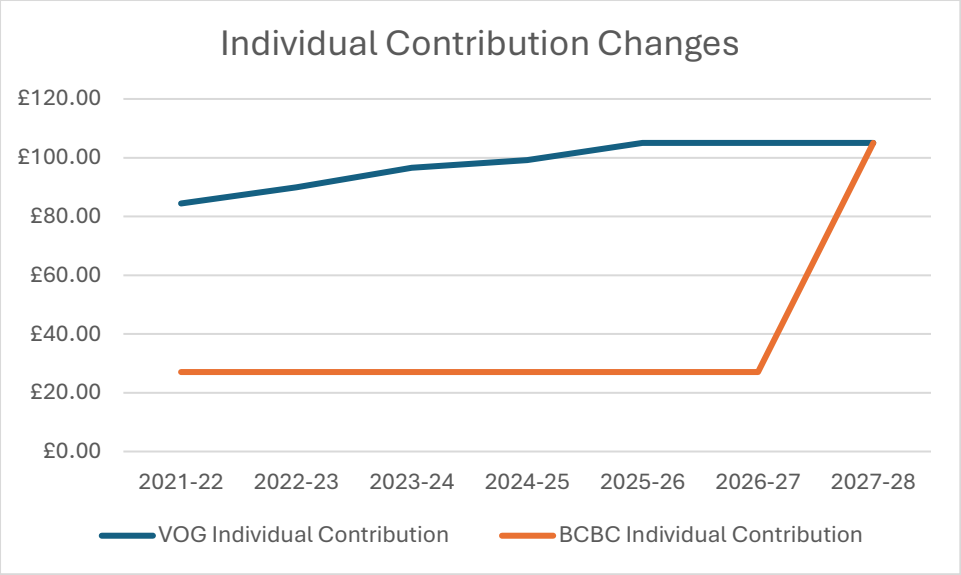
There are two proposals that this consultation seeks feedback for.

Impact to the Supported Individual

Firstly, a proposed change to the amount an individual supported by the scheme pays per week towards their meals and utility bills. Under current arrangements individuals from Bridgend contribute £27.05 per week for their meals and utility bills. Since the scheme was established in 2015 this amount has not increased. This was an oversight and has created inequity with other supported living services in BCBC who pay a much higher contribution

towards utilities and food and with other Shared Lives Schemes across Wales, who also charge a higher individual contribution. It is therefore proposed that the individual contribution is raised to £105.03 per week which will more accurately cover the cost of an individual's meals and utility bills. This contribution would then be the same for individuals supported by the service whether they are from the Bridgend or the Vale of Glamorgan.

The following graph shows that individual contributions in Bridgend, currently £27.05 per week, have never been increased since 2015; in contrast to the VOG where annual increases in individual contributions towards their accommodation have taken place in line with the real cost of living.



Individuals in Bridgend have, unknowingly benefitted from BCBC not having increased payments in line with the real cost of living. In so doing, the 'ordinary lives' ethos of Shared Lives has been skewed as people are not contributing to the real cost of living and fails to prepare some people for their next move to greater independence.

Individuals will also be required to pay the Local Housing Allowance rate for their rent. Individuals will be supported to ensure they are claiming the correct amount for this to be covered through their benefits/universal credit allowances.

Impact to the Shared Lives Carer

Secondly, there is a change proposed to the weekly amounts a carer providing care and support to individuals as a part of this scheme receive. Currently, carers across the scheme receive differing amounts depending on whether they are a Bridgend or Vale of Glamorgan based carer. This also extends to a different amount of paid annual leave the carers receive where the individual(s) they support receive care and support through a short break/respite placement. The following table shows the differences of the current rates of remuneration and leave between Bridgend and the Vale.

Remuneration Item	Bridgend	Vale of Glamorgan
Base allowance (weekly)	£616.77	£503.11
Additional allowance (weekly)	No	£105.39 if personal care is require

Leave entitlement	2 weeks	4 weeks

The aim of this second proposal is to bring about a consistent set of terms and conditions for carers across the partnership. In addition to this, current arrangements do not consistently take into account the complexity, variety and differences in levels of care and support that carers are required to provide depending on the needs of the individual(s) they support. As such the following banding system has been devised for long term placements to be implemented across the partnership.

Banding	**Rate**	**Leave entitlement**
Band 1	£505.91	4 weeks
Band 2	£640.08	4 weeks
Band 3	£670.82	4 weeks
Band 4 (Health funded placements)	£810.88	4 weeks

Banding decisions will be based on the needs identified in the persons Well-Being Assessment, completed with the person and their Case Manager/Care Coordinator. The different Banding levels take into account:

- Time commitment
- Level of support
- Complexity and skill required beyond standard expectations

This model is already in use across **11 other Welsh local authorities**.

The following table breaks down what the differences between these bandings will be.

Banding	**Descriptor**
Band 1	The individual requires a low level of support and is able to go out independently.
Band 2	The individual requires a moderate level of support and may need to be accompanied when outside of the home. The individual will require some support with personal care. The individu may have occasional emotional or behaviour support needs.
Band 3	The individual requires a moderate level of support and regularly ne be accompanied when outside of the home. The individual will require full support with personal care. The individual have regular emotional or behaviour support needs.
Band 4 (Health placements)	Health-funded care requiring clinical governance due to complexity

Once assigned, a band will travel with the individual across long-term placements and short-breaks/respite. A mandatory review will occur:

- Within 3 months of a long-term placement

And/or

- After the third short break/respite

And/or

- When an individuals needs change requiring a statutory review of their Care and Support Plan and/or wellbeing assessment

And/or

- Annually

There are also amendments being made to the rates at which carers are paid to provide short breaks or respite placements. The rates paid to carers providing short break/respite care will also be subject to bandings which correspond with the bands paid for long term placement. For example if an individual is in Band 1 for their long term placement, their short break/respite payment will also be a Band 1. The following table breaks down the bandings for short breaks/respite placements:

Banding	Rate
Band 1	£626.25
Band 2	£740.23
Band 3	£775.78
Band 4 (Health funded placements)	£992.07

This consultation is seeking to understand people's views towards this move to banded payments and how this could be implemented.

4. Questions & Answers

During the consultation there will be a number of ways in which you can submit questions about this proposal (see Section 6). However, here are answers to some questions you may have:

- **When will these new bandings come into force?**
  It is anticipated that the new bandings will come into force from January 2027

- **As an individual supported by the scheme, do I have to pay the new rate of individual contribution?**
  Yes, this is a required change as this will bring about consistency to all individuals supported by the scheme and a more fair and realistic expectation upon you towards the cost of items such as utilities like heating, gas, electricity, water and food bills.

- **Why are these bandings being proposed?**
  In order to ensure the service is equitable and fair to all carers and individuals supported by the service regardless of whether they are from the Vale of Glamorgan or Bridgend County Borough. It also looks to recognise the day to day differences in the level of care provided by its carers based on the needs of the individuals they support.

5. How will the Council collect views and opinions?

There are a number of ways that the Council will be collecting views and opinions on this proposal:

i. 'Face-to-face' meetings with Individuals and their carers
Meetings will take place during the consultation. These will be an opportunity to find out more about the proposal, ask questions and give your views. All individuals and carers involved with the service will be directly consulted with to obtain their views.

ii. Team Staff Meetings

iii. One to one meetings
Individual meetings with individuals and their families will be arranged where needed.

iv. Advocacy
People First Bridgend, as a commissioned advocacy provider for BCBC, are available to provide advocacy support to individuals supported in the Shared Lives service relating to this consultation.

v. Consultation Portal
Bridgend County Borough Council's consultation portal which will allow you to comment and provide feedback via the Internet found on the Council's website.

vi. In writing
You can respond in writing by writing to the address below.

You can write to us or complete the Feedback Form at the end of this booklet or complete the online version of this form. Letters and forms can be posted to:

Shared Lives Scheme Proposals Consultation
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB
or email consultation@bridgend.gov.uk

6. Explanation of terms used in the context of this document

Advocacy is a service, which represents others or helps them to represent themselves. The advocate will put a person's views forward, make sure that they are kept fully informed and that they have all the information they need to make an informed decision or choice.

Partner agencies - these are agencies who work together to provide services, e.g. the Council, National Public Health Service, Local Health Board etc.

Partnership - co-operation between organisations working together to provide a service.

A **Stakeholder** is a person, group or organisation with a direct interest, involvement, or investment in something, e.g. staff, owners and customers/ individuals of a business or service.

Alternative Formats

This information is available in a range of different formats including a Welsh language version and, on request, in other languages, large print, Braille or audio tape/CD. To make a request for another format, please ask one of the Shared Lives Staff who will pass your request on to the Consultations Team.

8. Feedback form

Bridgend County Borough Council

Shared Lives Scheme Proposals Consultation

Feedback Form

If you would like to comment on this proposal, please complete this form and post it in the questionnaire box or post it to:

Shared Lives Scheme Proposals Consultation
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

If you wish to receive a response to any questions raised on this form please supply your name and address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Please indicate your interest in this project (please ✓):

I am a supported individual ☐

I am related to a supported individual ☐

I am a Shared Lives Carer ☐

I am a member of staff in the Shared Lives Service ☐

Other (please specify) _____

Please insert your comments below *(please feel free to include additional sheets if required)*:

Section A – For Everyone (including Shared Lives Carers)

1) The reasons for the implementation of the proposed banding system are fair and understandable:

Please tick ✓ one box only

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Please give reasons for your answer or provide further comments in the box below

2) It is fair that individuals supported by the scheme pay equal contributions towards their daily living costs across the whole service (in Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan):

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed Policy detailed.
Please tick ✓ one box only

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree

Please give reasons for your answer or provide further comments or Suggestions in the box below:

3) It would be best to move all Shared Lives carers straight onto the proposed banding system immediately:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed Policy detailed.
Please tick ✓ one box only

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree

Please give reasons for your answer or provide further comments or Suggestions in the box below:

4) The banding should be phased in over time:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed Policy detailed.
Please tick ✓ one box only

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree

Please give reasons for your answer or provide further comments or Suggestions in the box below:

Do you have any other comments or suggestions you would like to make about the proposed banding arrangements or their implementation, or any other comments you wish to provide?

Please give reasons for your answer or provide further comments in the box below:

Section B – For individuals supported by the service

1) Do you think you should be paying a fair amount towards the real costs of living, such as food, washing, heating and lighting in the home?

Please tick ✓ one box only

Yes	
No	
Don't know	

If possible, please give reasons for your answer or provide further comments or suggestions in the box below:

2) Do agree that things should be fair and equal for people living in the Shared Lives service, whether they live in Bridgend or in the Vale of Glamorgan?

Please tick ✓ one box only

Yes	
No	
Don't know	

If possible, please give reasons for your answer or provide further comments or suggestions in the box below:

About You

The Council operates equality policies that aim to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and equally. To make sure that people are not discriminated against when accessing our services we carry out monitoring and therefore would be grateful if you could answer the following questions. The information you provide is strictly confidential.

Age: *(please ✓one answer)*

- ☐ Under 16
- ☐ 16-24
- ☐ 25-29
- ☐ 30-39
- ☐ 40-49
- ☐ 50-59
- ☐ 60-74
- ☐ 75-85
- ☐ 86+
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Welsh Language – are you: *(please ✓one answer)*

- ☐ Fluent speaker & writer
- ☐ Fairly fluent speaker & writer
- ☐ Fluent speaker
- ☐ Fairly fluent speaker
- ☐ Learner
- ☐ Little or no knowledge

The Equality Act 2010 defines a person as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long term (i.e. has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months) adverse effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? *(please ✓one answer)*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Ethnic origin: *(please ✓one answer)*

- ☐ White British
- ☐ White Irish
- ☐ Mixed: White & Black Caribbean
- ☐ Mixed: White & Black African
- ☐ Mixed: White & Asian
- ☐ Indian
- ☐ Bangladeshi
- ☐ Pakistani
- ☐ Black: African
- ☐ Black: Caribbean
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other *(please specify):* _____

Sex *(please ✓one answer)*

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Transgender
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Religion/Belief: *(please ✓one answer)*

- ☐ Christian
- ☐ Sikh
- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Any other religion
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Any other religion *(please specify):* _____

Sexual Orientation *(please ✓one answer)*

- ☐ Heterosexual
- ☐ Lesbian
- ☐ Gay
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Nationality *(please ✓one answer)*

- ☐ Welsh
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Scottish
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ English
- ☐ Other
- ☐ British

- ☐ Other *(please specify):* _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

Shared Lives Consultation Easy Read Document

Shared Lives Scheme Changes

We would like to hear what you think

Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
BRIDGEND

Shared Lives Scheme Changes

Shared Lives helps you live a **happy life** in a **family home.**

There will be some **changes** to **Shared Lives in Bridgend.**

This **booklet** tells you about the **changes.**

It is **important** that you:

- **Understand** the changes
- **Ask questions**
- **Say what you think**

What is staying the same?

Shared Lives will continue to support you.

You will still:

- Live in a **family home**
- Get **care and support**
- Be **listened to**
- Be supported to live a **good life**

Even though some things are changing, Shared Lives will still support you.

What will change?

You will **pay more** for **food and bills.**

The money you pay at home is called **Individual Contributions.**

Individual Contributions help pay for:

- **Food**
- **Gas and electricity**
- **Water**
- **Heating**

Prices for **food and bills have gone up for everyone.**

What will change?

Right now, you pay **£27.05 a week** for **food and bills.**

Food and bills now **cost more than before.**

The plan is to change the amount you pay to **£105.03 a week**.

This change would be for **everyone** supported by the **Shared Lives Scheme.**

Making it fair

People who live **outside Bridgend** already **pay more** for **food and bills.**

Bridgend Council believes **everyone should pay the same amount,** no matter **where they live**.

This is so the money paid is **fair** for **everyone** supported by **Shared Lives.**

If you feel worried

Change can feel hard.

It is **okay** to feel **worried, upset, or unsure.**

You are not alone.

You can **talk to someone you trust** like your **Shared Lives carer, family member**, or **support worker.**

When will this happen?

The **changes will not happen right now.**

The changes are planned for **next year.**

Bridgend Council wants to listen to you first. Your views are important.

This is called giving feedback.

Having your say

You can **give your feedback** in **different ways.**

This can be in a **Group Meeting,**

Or a **private meeting.**

Or you can **write a letter to Bridgend Council.**

You can **choose what feels best for you,** and it is **okay if you decide not to give feedback.**

Getting help to have your say

People First Bridgend is a charity that supports people.

They can help you **understand information** and **share your views.**

They help people feel **confident** and **listened to.**

Staff from **People First Bridgend** will be at the **feedback meetings.**

The Group Feedback Meetings

You can come to a **Group Feedback Meeting** with Bridgend Council, with support from People First Bridgend.

Other people supported by **Shared Lives** will also be there.

You can **ask questions** to help you **understand these changes.**

You can **listen to others** and **share your views** if you want to.

The Group Feedback Meetings

Choose the meeting you want to come to. You can come to as many as you would like.

The Greenroom, Pyle Day Service, CF33 6BS

Bridgend Resource Centre, CF31 3XX

Sarn Library, CF32 9SW

Private Feedback Meetings

If group meetings are not right for you, there is another option to choose.

People First Bridgend
Pobl Yn Gyntaf Pen-Y-Bont
putting people first
rhoi pobl yn gyntaf

People First Bridgend staff can meet you in a **private place**, like **your home.**

You can **share your feedback** in a **quiet and private way. Bridgend Council will not be there** at these meetings.

Your feedback and questions will be shared later with the Council.

Contact details

Tell **Richard** from **Bridgend Council** if you want to attend a **Group Meeting or have a Private Meeting.**

And tell Richard what **Group Meeting date** you can make.

You can **contact Richard** by **email** on

Richard.thomas1@bridgend.gov.uk

Or let him know by **phone** on

01656 642469

Writing a letter

If you want to **write** to **Bridgend Council** to give your feedback, the **address** is:

Shared Lives Scheme Proposals Consultation

Bridgend County Borough Council

Civic Offices

Angel Street

Bridgend

CF31 4WB

Or **email**

Consultation@bridgend.gov.uk

About this Information

Easy Read by:

People First Bridgend

www.peoplefirstbridgend.co.

For:

Bridgend County Borough Council

www.bridgend.gov.uk