

Appendix 4 – Comparison of Shared Lives Schemes Banding Rates

Comparison Table of Banding Rates

	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3
VOG/BCBC	505.91	640.08	670.82
Powys	339.90	401.70	463.50
SEW	441.21	528.92	613.48
West Wales	357.00	455.00	545.00
Gwynedd & Anglesey	372.00	482.00	596.00
Leicestershire	433.00	485.00	549.00
Nottingham	434.66	459.98	570.34

Vale of Glamorgan Shared Lives Briefing – BCBC Transition to Banding System

Overview

The Shared Lives Partnership Board is preparing to implement a banding system for determining payments to Shared Lives Carers (SLCs). This change aims to standardise terms and conditions across the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend partnership areas, ensuring consistency and fairness in remuneration based on the complexity and intensity of care and support provided.

Implementation Approach

The banding system will be introduced by Vale of Glamorgan Shared Lives, applicable to both Vale and Bridgend placements. Banding decisions will be made in consultation with the individual's Case Manager/Care Coordinator and Project Worker and will consider:

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

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

Band Descriptors

- **Band 1:** Standard care responsibilities expected of a shared lives carer.
- **Band 2:** Care that exceeds standard expectations in some areas.
- **Band 3:** Care that significantly exceeds standard expectations.
- **Band 4:** 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:

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- Within 3 months of a long-term placement
- After the third short break/respite

Financial Impact

At present, all Shared Lives Carers (SLCs) in Bridgend receive a standard weekly payment of £616.77 for long-term placements.

This payment is comprised of:

- **Housing Benefit (HB) or Local Housing Rate (LHR) – with LHR set to replace HB as individuals transition to Universal Credit**
- **Social Services funding**
- **Individual contributions**

This structure does not currently differentiate between levels of support or complexity of care provided, which the proposed banding system seeks to address.

Under the new system Long-Term Placement Payments would be:

Current BCBC Payment	New Payment
All placements £616.77 per week	Band 1 - £505.91
	Band 2 - £640.08
	Band 3 - £670.82

Impact by Band:

- **Band 1:** 5 SLC households, 5 individuals → £110.86 loss/week
- **Band 2:** 6 SLC households, 7 individuals → £23.31 gain/week
- **Band 3:** 4 SLC households, 4 individuals → £30.38 gain/week
- **Band 4:** No current placements (would generally only apply to health funded placements)

It should be noted that many SLC who support people who are Band 1 also work full-time and SL is not their sole source of income. Also, some SLC households host more than one individual.

Bridgend Comparison:

Bridgend currently pay their carers at a higher rate of £616.77, although they receive less annual leave (14 days instead of 28) so those on the lowest band would lose £110.86 a week. There are 5 SLC who this would affect, although all carers would gain 14 days additional annual leave as Terms and Conditions will also be standardised across the partnership.

Short Breaks / Respite Payments – Bridgend SLCs

The principle of a banding system has also been applied to Time Away from Care/ Respite and Community Short-Break payments to SLC:

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Current BCBC Payment	New Payment
All placements £616.77 per week	Band 1 - £626.25
	Band 2 - £740.23
	Band 3 - £775.78

Impact:

- **No negative impact for any SLC**
- **Increases varies between £9.48 - £159.01**

Individual Contributions

Rent levels have remained static since 2015. With the transition to Universal Credit, we are proposing to set the rent at the Local housing allowance rate, for Bridgend this is £92.05 per week. As the local housing allowance is based on the area in which an individual lives this will be different for each local authority.

- **Vale LHA:** £121.33/week
- **Bridgend LHA:** £92.05/week

Domestic Contributions (uplifted annually) towards food and utilities will be the same across all local authorities and are charged to the individual as follows:

- Meals: £52.04/week
- Heating/Gas/Hot Water/Laundry: £52.99

The payment equation remains:

- **Housing Benefit (HB) or Local Housing Rate (LHR) – with LHR set to replace HB as individuals transition to Universal Credit**
- **Social Services funding**
- **Individual contributions**

Payment to carers will be the same across both Local Authorities.

Summary

This proposed banding system is designed to:

- Align with best practice across Wales
- Ensure fair and transparent payment for carers
- Recognise and reward carers supporting individuals with higher needs
- Encourage broader participation in long-term and respite placements

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This is not a cost-saving exercise, but a strategic move to improve equity and sustainability within the Shared Lives programme.