

The state of Shared Lives



Shared Lives care in Wales 2024-25

A report by
Shared Lives Plus



Shared Lives carers from the South East Wales Shared Lives Scheme were recognised at the Wales Care Awards

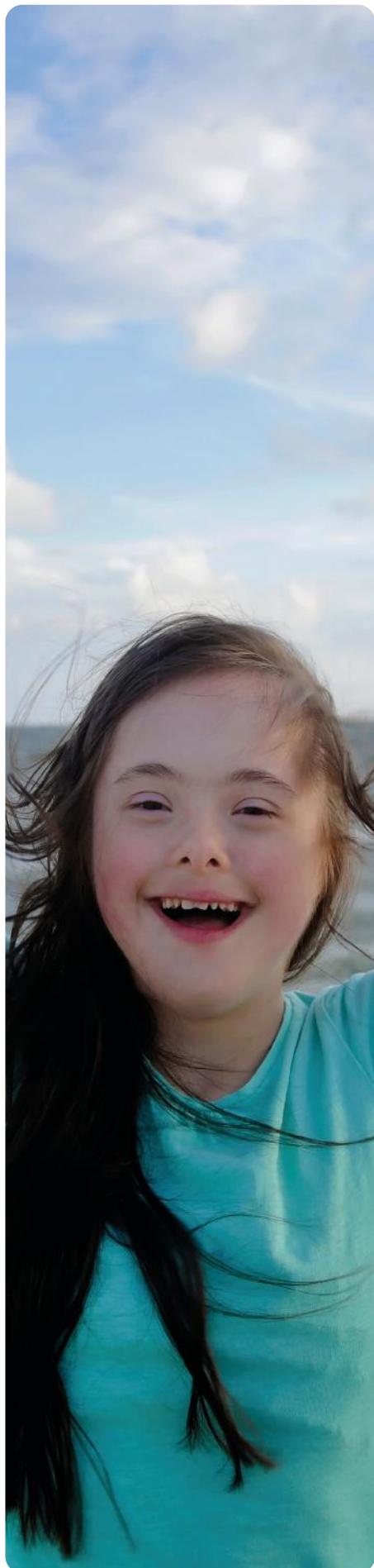


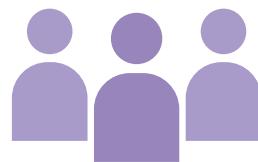
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**Our lives get better
when they're shared**

Key messages

In **2024-25, 748** Shared Lives carers - a **12%** increase on the previous year - supported **918** people across Wales, with **92** staff (an **8%** increase) working across eight Shared Lives schemes.



748
Shared Lives
carers

Live in support remained the most frequently accessed service.

Live-in support

The number of people accessing short breaks increased by **9%** compared with the previous year.



Schemes in Wales primarily supported people with a learning disability, dementia, mental ill health, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Learning disability

Mental ill health

Dementia

Autism spectrum disorder



About Shared Lives

Shared Lives is a real example of what the future of good social care looks like. It builds relationships, belonging and purpose within local communities.

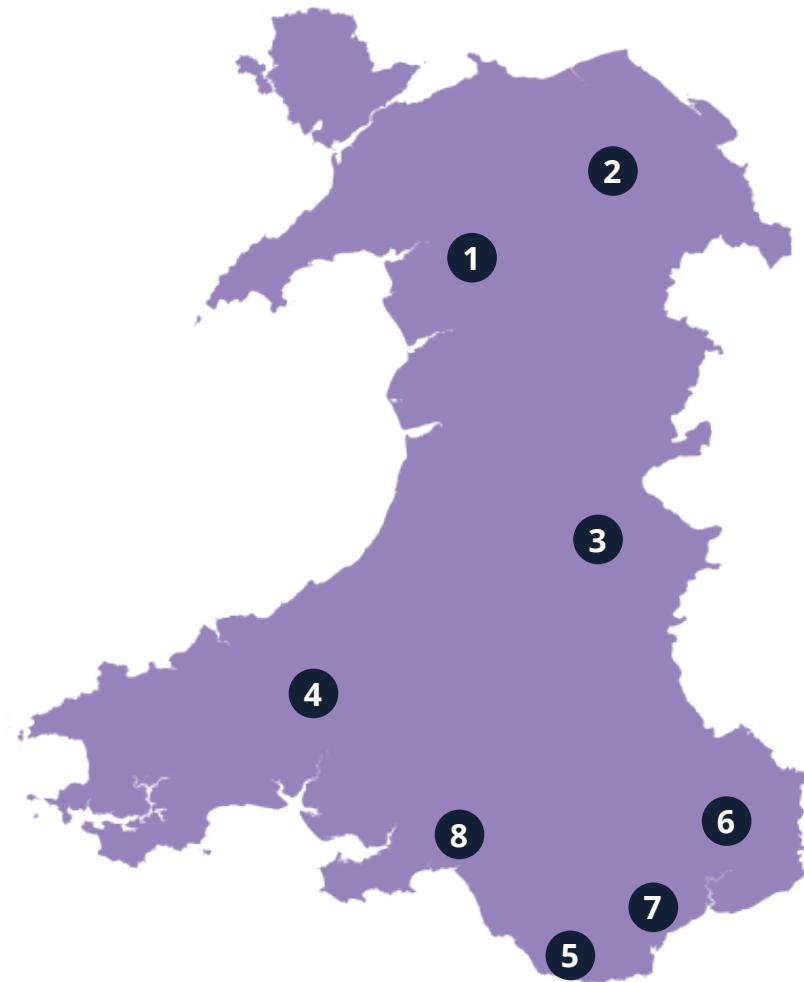
Shared Lives schemes bring people who need support, together with Shared Lives carers, to share homes, lives, and community connections, so everyone has the chance to live where they feel they belong.

Across the UK over half of the people using Shared Lives move in with their chosen Shared Lives carer; nearly half visit a Shared Lives carer for day support or overnight breaks. People get safe, personal care and support, in a place which feels like home. They build relationships, skills, do things they enjoy and become more active.

The eight Shared Lives schemes in Wales are regulated by the **Care Inspectorate Wales**.

Shared Lives Plus member schemes

- 1 Gwynedd and Anglesey Shared Lives Scheme
- 2 PSS North Wales Shared Lives Scheme
- 3 Shared Lives Powys
- 4 West Wales Shared Lives
- 5 Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend Shared Lives
- 6 South East Wales Shared Lives
- 7 Ategi Shared Lives
- 8 West Glamorgan Shared Lives



About this report

The State of Shared Lives series of reports illustrate the scale and nature of the Shared Lives sector, charting how it develops year on year. Some schemes were unable to provide full data, so this report reflects the most accurate picture possible from the information available.

This report would not be possible without the contributions of our member schemes in Wales, whose collaboration we are grateful for.

To find out more visit

 www.sharedlivesplus.org.uk

South East Wales Shared Lives scheme
were awarded the Home Care Team
Award at the Great British Care Awards



Supported People

918 people drew on the support of Shared Lives in **2024-25** - a **9%** decrease on the previous year. While this marks a modest reduction, the trend should be viewed within the context of wider social care pressures highlighted nationally. This includes tightening eligibility criteria, growing complexity of needs, and reduced carer capacity to support multiple arrangements.

Despite this challenging backdrop, three of the seven Welsh schemes reported an increase in the number of people supported, and the longer-term picture remains positive.¹ Over the past three years, there has been a **1.8%** increase in people supported (**2022-23** to **2024-25**), demonstrating the sector's resilience and the continued value placed on Shared Lives as a personalised, community-based option.

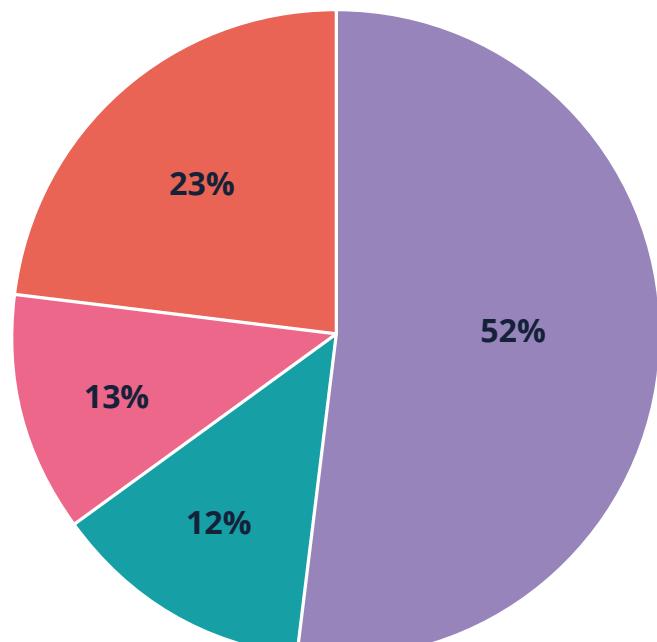
Live-in support remains the most accessed form of support, with **429** people living with their Shared Lives carer, **346** accessing short breaks, and **209** receiving day support. Notably, short break arrangements increased by **9%** compared to the previous year, indicating growing demand for flexible and respite support options within Welsh schemes.



¹ One scheme in Wales began operating in 2024.

The primary support need continues to be learning disability (**485** people), followed by mental ill health (**121**), dementia (**54**), and autism spectrum disorder (**42**). Encouragingly, there was a marked increase in people supported with sensory impairments, rising from **2** to **24**. This may reflect better data collection and a broadening of Shared Lives' reach to people with more diverse support needs.

Although the introduction of a 'no data' category this year impacts direct comparison, overall the age profiles have remained stable: **52%** of people supported were aged **25-64**, **13%** were **18-24**, and **12%** were **65** or over. The high level of engagement in education, training, or employment among younger adults continues to stand out: **94%** of people aged **18-24** supported through Shared Lives in Wales were in some form of training, education, or work, compared with **85%** of **19-24**-year-olds in the general Welsh population.²



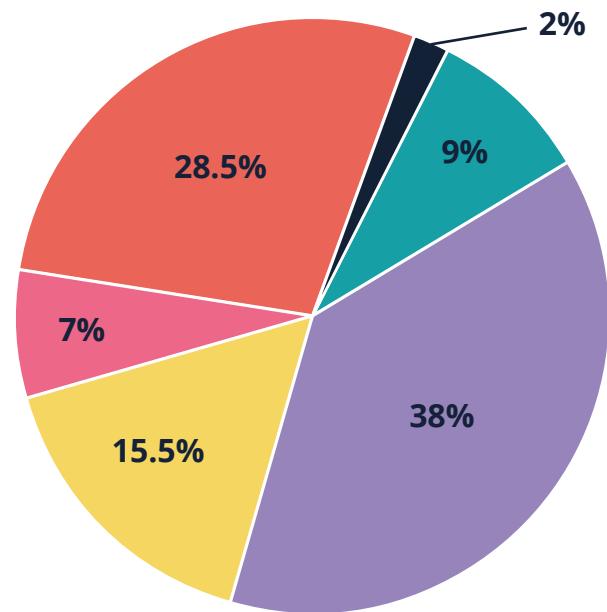
█ No data █ 18-24 █ 25-64 █ 65+

Twenty young people leaving care transitioned into Shared Lives this year - the same as the previous year - with an average age of **17.5** at referral and **18** at transition. This underscores Shared Lives' role in providing stable, relationship-based pathways into adulthood.

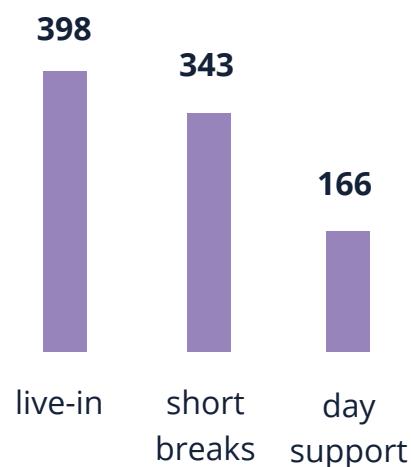
Shared Lives carers

The number of Shared Lives carers in Wales increased by **12%**, reaching **748** in **2024-25**. Six of the seven Welsh schemes reported growth, reflecting both continued investment and the introduction of improved carer approval processes.³

However, this growth in Shared Lives carer numbers did not lead to a proportional increase in the number of people supported. This may be because schemes are strategically recruiting carers from family or community networks of existing carers and supported people. This approach strengthens continuity, supports sustainability, and addresses the ageing carer profile, which continues to rise. **7%** of carers were aged **75** or over (up from **4%** last year), **15.5%** were aged **67-74**, and **38%** were within the **45-66** age group.



The number of carers providing short breaks increased sharply by **55%**, from **220** in **2023-24** to **343** in **2024-25**, while **398** carers provided live-in support and **166** offered day support. This aligns with wider UK trends showing diversification in Shared Lives arrangements and a growing emphasis on flexibility and respite.



³ One scheme in Wales began operating in 2024.



Shared Lives carers, John and Stacey, from Shared Lives Powys, were awarded the Living Well Award at the Shared Living Awards for the life-changing support they provide.

Shared Lives staff

Workforce data show a **12%** increase in scheme staff between **2021-22** and **2024-25**, demonstrating continued commitment to Shared Lives development in Wales. Among the seven schemes that submitted workforce data, staff numbers ranged from **3** to **32**, with **78%** working full-time. This reflects a stable and committed workforce profile consistent with the national pattern of predominantly full-time employment (**71%**), supporting Wales' strong foundation for future growth.

For more information about Shared Lives in the UK and Shared Lives Plus check out our [UK State of Sector](#).



Our lives get better when they're shared

Data note

This report is based on the best information available at the time analysis was carried out. It uses data from Shared Lives scheme responses, reliable external sources, and data already held by Shared Lives Plus. Since information is not collected in the same way by all Shared Lives schemes and across all topic areas, the amount of data and level of detail vary. Where we could not collect information, we have shown this as 'no data', rather than filling in the gaps based on assumptions. In some cases, high-level figures are included to provide context. Figures are included to provide a broad picture. They should not be used to make wider claims or comparisons and should be read with care.

[Read the full data transparency statement](#)

[Visit the report website page](#)

**To find out what Shared Lives
can do for you, please contact us:**

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