



Nov 17, 2015 12:18 GMT

## Recruitment drive for Shared Lives carers

Moray Council is looking for more people to care for adults in their own home.

The Shared Lives service supports people aged 16 and over with social care needs to live a full and active life and to stay as independent as possible.

The small team of self-employed Shared Lives carers currently support 36 people, but more carers are urgently needed.

A recruitment drive later this month will focus on Buckie and Keith but there

is a demand for placements right across Moray, particularly in Speyside.

The council's Shared Lives officer, Diane Mcleary, said that no formal qualifications were needed to apply to become a carer with Shared Lives.

She said: "When we asked people who use the service what qualities in a Shared Lives carer were important to them they told us it was things like patience and understanding, enthusiasm and being able to motivate, a sense of humour and flexibility.

"Some have had careers in nursing or have spent time caring for a family member but experience is not essential either. What is vital is a passion for making a positive difference in people's lives."

The community care service works by matching a person identified by social workers as requiring support with a Shared Lives carer in their community.

Carers offer individualised daytime care and support in a homely setting to no more than two people at a time or overnight and longer stay so the families of service users can take a break from their caring role.

Current service users range in age from 17 all the way up to 91. They work with their carer on skills for independent living as well as opportunities for socialising and pursuing their interests such as arts and crafts, enjoying nature and reminiscing.

Christine Coubrough, from Burghead, began working as a Shared Lives carer in January this year and describes it as the best job she has ever had.

"It is rewarding in so many ways to the point of enhancing my own life. The best thing for me is the satisfaction I feel when I have supported someone to make the most of their life doing things that make them happy," said Christine (pictured with Pat Gaffney, whom she visits weekly at her home in Hopeman).

"The ongoing support from the Shared Lives service where they match carers to service users to ensure the best results is why this is such an excellent service."

Eleanor Stewart has been providing a Shared Lives service from her home in Kinloss for a year. She previously managed a housing support team but missed having direct contact with people.

She said: “The whole ethos of the service was perfect for me. The best thing about the job is the autonomy to do whatever suits your service users and what will help them to remain as independent as possible. I enjoy the flexibility of how we spend our time together.”

There is a robust application process to be followed to appoint Shared Lives carers. The assessment, selection and approval process takes three to five months to complete. Training and support is ongoing and the carers themselves get together regularly.

More information on joining the team is available on the Moray Council website or from the Moray Shared Lives team on 01343 563450 or email

[sharedlives@moray.gov.uk](mailto:sharedlives@moray.gov.uk).

---

Moray Council area stretches from Tomintoul in the south to the shores of the Moray Firth, from Keith in the east to Forres in the west. The council and its 4,500 employees respond to the needs of 92,500 residents in this beautiful part of Scotland, which nestles between Aberdeenshire and the Highlands.

Famous for its colony of dolphins, fabulous beaches and more malt whisky distilleries than any where else in Scotland, Moray is a thriving area and a great place to live.

Headquartered in Elgin, the administrative capital of Moray.

## Contacts



### **Sharon Dunbar**

Press Contact

Media and Communications Officer

sharon.dunbar@moray.gov.uk

01343 563046

07967 748826



### **Peter Jones**

Press Contact

Communications manager

Press, public communications, social media, events, FOI, campaigns, crisis comms.

peter.jones@moray.gov.uk

01343 563601

07974 191318