Information pack for carers

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Who to contact

Quarriers Adult Family Placement Services
Anniesland Business Park
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Our Mission Statement

Quarriers is a Scottish charity; we provide practical support and care for children, adults and families, to bring about positive change in their lives. Our vision is of a just and accepting society, where everyone can participate and enjoy life.

We believe that each of us has the right and deserves the opportunity to live, work, socialise and be accepted within our own community - and for our voices to be listened to on the issues that concern us. Which is why we are challenging the root causes of poverty and inequality of opportunity and choice, and working towards our vision of a just and accepting society, where everyone can participate and enjoy life.

Within the Family Placement service, staff and carers work with others to ensure people with learning and/or physical disabilities have:

- the experience of family life
- physical wellbeing
- emotional stability and support
- fulfilling and meaningful lives in the community

The service supports adults who have a learning and/or physical disability to live with carers and their families in the community. The service is registered with and inspected by the Care Inspectorate. Information on the service is available on the Care Inspectorate website where you can access previous inspection reports.
The people we support

The people we support have learning and/or physical disabilities, which means that they require varying degrees of help and assistance with all aspects of daily living. Some people may require assistance with personal care such as bathing, dressing and eating. Some people need help to move around. Some have epilepsy and other health-related needs. Most people require support and understanding in order to communicate and express their needs and desires.

People who have learning and/or physical disabilities have the same right as we do to lead a fulfilling and varied life in the community.

Who are our carers?

Our carers are all very different with a variety of experiences to offer. Our carers are ordinary people who live in normal domestic housing in the community.

Our carers agree to have a person who has learning and/or physical disability live with them as part of their family.
What our carers do

Our carers provide a safe, warm and supportive home where individuals feel a sense of belonging and self-worth. They promote independence, choice and encourage the development of new skills. They share and enjoy new experiences with the person they support and help the individual to become part of their family, the local community and have a meaningful social life.

Carers help to maintain contact with important people and ensure the person has friends and social contacts. They talk to relevant people about the person’s needs and achievements. They work with others as part of a team, aiming to improve the quality of life for the individual - undertaking caring tasks, including helping with personal care and all aspects of daily living. While acknowledging some challenges in their work, all carers continue to thoroughly enjoy what they do and most have been caring for the individual placed with them over many years.

We are aware an Adult Family Placement is not always straightforward, however with careful and thorough assessment, matching, training and preparation plus ongoing support, we have shown that these placements enrich the lives of the people we support and their carers.
How to become an Adult Family Placement carer

If you are interested in finding out more about what we do, we can arrange to meet with you in your own home. This gives you an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. It also gives us a chance to find out a bit about you and why you would like to become an adult placement carer.

We would normally arrange that you attend preparatory groups which give a greater understanding of the expectations of carers and their roles and responsibilities.

If you are still interested, we will ask you to complete an application form. This form includes questions about you and other members of your household.

“It’s been a carer for 10 years and still enjoy watching John join in with the family”

Although the people we support are adults, they are still very vulnerable and we need to make sure that they live in secure and safe environments.
The assessment process

A Social Worker will visit you over a period of time and will speak to other members of your household to clarify whether becoming an Adult Placement Carer is right for you. We need to do this to make sure that we will be placing people into environments which are supportive, warm, accepting and stimulating. We will need to ask you about your family life and what your values and beliefs are.

Areas covered in the assessment will include asking you about how you handle issues and how easily you form relationships. We will also assess your commitment to this type of work. During the assessment process we will keep you informed of your progress and you will be able to raise any doubts or concerns you may have. We need to carry out various checks on all applicants and members of the household who are over 16.

These are; Disclosure Scotland checks; references; medical checks and enquiries with local authorities. A record of an offence would not necessarily stop you from being considered as an Adult Placement carer, but we would want to discuss this with you. If during the assessment process we feel that becoming an Adult Placement Carer is not the best option for you, we will discuss this with you and help you understand the reasons why.

After the assessment is completed, it will be presented to our Adult Placement Panel. This will highlight your strengths and raise any training needs and issues which might require further consideration.
The placement panel

Prospective carers are invited to attend the Adult Placement Panel to allow panel members to meet and hear from you and your social worker about your assessment. The Panel considers assessments and makes a recommendation to Quarriers Agency Decision Manager as to whether or not prospective carers should be approved. The panel is made up of professionals from health and social care services and others with experience of disability and/or family placement services.

Matching process

When matching an individual with a family, we must consider the best interests of the person to be placed and what supports you are able to offer. You will be given information about the person who needs care.

They or a representative will be given information about you. If a good match seems likely, we will arrange for you to meet each other in a place where everyone feels comfortable, such as your home, the individuals existing care placement or their where they go for their day opportunities. The meeting can involve the person who needs care, other family members, care manager and your worker.

If this meeting goes well and it is agreed a placement can be made, times and dates will be arranged for
the person, you and your family to spend time together, getting to know one another. Your worker will co-ordinate this process, speaking to you and the person needing care, plus liaising with others who have an interest in the placement.

During this process, there is a lot at stake for both the carer and the person needing care. Both will have high hopes. It is therefore important that this phase is given the time and attention it deserves.

Support and supervision available to carers

Becoming a main carer means that you will work alongside project staff, respite carers and staff from outside agencies such as; Day staff, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapist etc. A crucial factor in the success of placements is the quality and quantity of support available to main carers. We provide:

• Named Worker

A named Worker (who is a qualified Social Worker) is assigned to each placement. They visit regularly and can be contacted at the office in Anniesland, Glasgow. The worker will develop a supportive working relationship with the carer and individual and offer advice on all aspects of the placement.

• Respite for you

Carers are entitled to six weeks respite every year. This time is divided into short breaks throughout the year i.e. weekends or one to two weeks depending on the needs of the main carer and individual.
• **Day Opportunities**

The person Quarriers supports should have access to day opportunities or alternative services for periods throughout the week. These will be provided and arranged by the local authority care manager.

• **24 Hour Support**

Advice and support is available at the end of a phone 24 hours a day. No one is left to feel unsupported and on their own with any difficulty.

• **Carers Meetings**

Regular meetings are held throughout the year for carers. These meetings provide a forum for exchange of information, advice and support. They are an opportunity for new carers to discuss issues with more experienced carers. Guest speakers can be invited to address topics of relevance to the work of the project and issues relating to learning disability.

• **Carers Handbook**

Every carer is provided with a handbook, which contains essential information on all aspects of the carer’s role including management of an individual’s health, money and safety.

• **Training**

As part of your role as carer you are expected to attend core training and specialist training relevant to the person you support. You can also access a variety of other courses which will help you develop in your caring role.

• **Annual Reviews**

All carers have an annual review. This is an opportunity to meet with the Service Manager and Social Worker to reflect on the past year and plan ahead.
Funding for placements

Quarriers pay carers a competitive monthly fee. A Housing Benefit claim is made by the person cared for to cover their accommodation costs and this is paid to you. The person you are caring for also contributes an agreed amount each week to food and utilities from their own income.

Some people will be unable to manage their own money and carers could be asked to become the appointee for the person.

In all cases, carers will help the person manage their money on a day-to-day basis and will discuss finances regularly with the Worker. Carers will be given a copy of financial procedures and are expected to keep records of money the person receives and pays out.
Getting in touch

Our office is based at:

Quarriers Adult Family Placement Service
Anniesland Business Park
Netherton Road
Glasgow G13 1EU

For more information on Quarriers Adult Family Placement Service please contact the Project Manager:

Tel: 0141 954 1010.
Email: fredmartin@quarriers.org.co.uk

We encourage comments and feedback on our service as we believe this will help us to make improvements.

www.quarriers.org.uk

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