

What happens next?

If you are interested in becoming a short break foster carer, a sitter, or a befriender, ring one of the team and arrange to meet up with them. They will come to see you at home, discuss the scheme in more detail and leave you with an application form.

When we receive your application, we will apply for checks and references (including an enhanced CRB check) to make sure there is no reason you should not be working with children or young people.

We will invite you on a Preparation For Caring course to help you find out more about Bolton Shared Care and the children and young people you will be meeting.

A member of the team will spend time with you getting to know you better and working out which child you may be able to support.

With our support, we will then introduce you to a child and his or her family and help you to establish some regular support. Training specific to each child's needs is provided. Ongoing support from your link worker is provided.

Want to know more?

Ring the team on **01204 337100**

Individual team members can be contacted directly as follows.

- Sally Hempsall (Team Manager) 01204 337106
- Steven Holden (Social Worker) 01204 337108
- Justine Brown (Social Worker) 01204 337110
- Humaira Ghanchi (Resource worker – Asian children and families) 01204 337107
- Iain Massingham (Resource Worker leisure and social opportunities) 01204 337109

e.mail us on boltonsharedcare@bolton.gov.uk

Visit our website at
www.bolton.gov.uk/website/Pages/Sharedcare/orchildren.aspx

Write to us at

Bolton Shared Care,
Crescent House,
Lever Street,
Bolton,
BL3 6NN

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Please call 01204 337100**

As part of Bolton's commitment to a sustainable future, this document is printed (using vegetable based inks) on paper sourced from sustainable forests.



Bolton Shared Care

Fostering, sitting and befriending for disabled children and young people

**Give a little time....
make a big difference!**

Find out more about what we do

**Bolton
Council**

What is Bolton Shared Care?

However much we love our children, most parents look forward to the times when they can have a few hours to themselves knowing that their child is happy visiting friends.

Most children enjoy time away from their parents making new friends and enjoying new experiences.

Disabled children and young people are no different, but can find it hard to make new friends and seldom get invited out without their parents.

This is where Bolton Shared Care can help...

We recruit enthusiastic, caring people who enjoy children's company and who can make a regular commitment to spend time with a child who has a physical and/or learning disability.

This leaflet gives information about a range of challenging and rewarding opportunities.

What can it do for you?

Joining Bolton Shared Care changes lives!

- You can really know you have made a difference.
- Enrich your life, the lives of your children and grand children.
- Building friendships and relationships that are unique.
- Enhance your career prospects by gaining valuable social care experience.

Short break foster carers

Short break foster carers are couple or single people, with or without their own children, who invite a disabled child to come and stay with them in their own home. At first the child may visit for a few hours and, as everyone gets to know each other better, the visits become longer; an overnight or weekend stay for example.

Sarah and James have been short break foster carers for five years. Sarah and James are both in their forties and have grown up children. They invite Toby, who is 13, to visit them once a week for tea and for one weekend a month. Toby has also stayed for a week when his mum was in hospital.

“ Toby is part of the family. When he visits, we do ordinary family things such as visiting my mum, games and going swimming. There is never a dull moment with Toby and he certainly keeps us on our toes. It is lovely to see him enjoy himself knowing that his parents have had a good break.”



Sitters

Sitters are people who go into the child's home and care for the child during the evening or the weekend whilst parents go out.

Rachael has been a sitter for three years. She sits regularly for Robert and sometime even stays overnight with him if his parents are away for the evening.

“ Robert's family have made me very welcome and I really enjoy going to spend some time with him. We usually play for a while then have some supper and I help him to bed. Robert has some medical needs that I have received training for. I have found Bolton Shared Care supportive with training and they have made sure that I am confident in caring for Robert” .

Befriending

Many young disabled people want to extend their social lives and get out and about with people. Bolton Shared Care offers a number of social opportunities for young people, including 'Midweek', a regular drop in session at Starbucks and 'Night Life', a regular night out in Bolton for the over 18s. There are also opportunities to go out individually with a young person.

Emily has been a befriender for just over a year. She goes to Starbucks and out with Night Life also once a month.

“ I was a bit nervous at first as I had no experience with disabled young people. I met people as part of a group and gradually learnt from the other volunteers. We have a great time now and mid week and night life are part of my social life! I have made some really good friends.