

KENT SHARED LIVES

Policies & Procedures

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(30) Risk Assessment and Risk Management Strategy

It is the policy of Kent Shared Lives to ensure that its risk assessment procedures and risk management strategies enable its Shared Lives hosts to support individuals in taking responsible risks as part of an independent lifestyle.

This Policy forms an integral part of the individuals care and support plan.

1. Prior to the placement, a risk assessment will be carried out by the social worker/case officer and Shared Lives, as part of the need's assessment, should this be required.
2. The risk assessment will identify the potential risks and hazards for the individual, as well as those posed by the individual for the host and/or others within the placement or the local community. It will take account of the individuals wishes and requirements.
3. Prior to the placement, a risk assessment of the hosts' home will be carried out by Shared Lives, which takes into account the risk assessment undertaken as part of the individuals need assessment.
4. Assessment of the risk will involve the referring agency and/or representatives from health and social services, relevant specialists, the individual and the host.
5. A risk management strategy will be developed to address identified risks and to enable the individual to undertake agreed and desired activities. Agreed strategies to manage the risk(s) will be recorded in the individual care and support plan.
6. Shared Lives will provide the host with the appropriate training, advice and ongoing support to enable the host to:
 - 6.1 act to remove/reduce identified risks and hazards for the individual and
 - 6.2 ensure the individual receives personal safety and other training to avoid limiting his/her lifestyle activities or choices; and
 - 6.3 act promptly in the event of an unexplained absence by the individual.
7. Risk and risk management strategies will be subject to regular review, at formal reviews or when changes in circumstance necessitate.