

Case Study: Anna and Valerie

Share and Care, 2017



Anna lives in Surrey and has had a Sharer, Valerie, through Share and Care Homeshare since Spring 2017.

Anna's niece talked to us on her aunt's behalf;

"Anna has vascular dementia so her cognitive skills vary, depending on how much blood is getting to her

brain. She often knows what she wants to say but has marked 'word finding' difficulties, which she finds very frustrating. She has been deaf for many years and recently given up on hearing aids for various reasons - she can hear ok when spoken to directly but cannot follow general chat and group conversations.

"She does have patches of being very disorientated, not knowing where she is, believing she's in another house and confused about who she's living with. Usually she responds well to reassurance and visitors will witness the humour, care and empathy that passes between Anna and her Sharer, Valerie.

We looked at a flat with a warden but she really didn't want to move. I'm her next of kin and live over four hours' drive away. "I found out about Share and Care Homeshare from a friend of Anna's, I had heard of schemes where elderly people 'rent' a room to a younger person but couldn't get further information from the Local Authority, nor Age UK.

We applied and a month later they suggested Valerie. My brother met Valerie and with the help of a friend, got the spare bedroom ready and on 1st May 2017, Valerie moved in. Anna took to Valerie straightaway and enjoyed having someone to share the house with.

"There have been various hiccups along the way, but with Share and Care's help, we've always sorted things out, and Valerie is like part of the family. She has enabled Anna to continue living in her own home."

Valerie added; *"Anna has her good and bad days. She always remembers me even if she's been confused and we still have a laugh together."*



*Names have been changed

Shared Lives Plus

www.sharedlivesplus.org.uk www.homeshareuk.org

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