



Become a

Volunteer with Ategi

**Join us as a Shared
Lives Panel Volunteer**



Help shape the future of Shared Lives by
joining Ategi's Shared Lives Panel.



A bit about Ategi

Ategi is a registered charity delivering support services across Wales and England for over 30 years. From our head office in Pontypridd and satellite offices in Buckinghamshire and South Gloucestershire, we help adults live independent, fulfilling lives.



With around 80 employees and nearly 300 carers, our services include:



Shared Lives – matching adults with carers who support them in their own homes.



Supported Living – enabling people to live independently with the right support.



Community Support – helping people stay connected and engaged in their local area.

Our mission is simple:
Supporting people to live their best lives, their way.

What is Shared Lives?

Shared Lives is a bit like fostering, but for adults with support needs. Shared Lives carers share their home, family life, and community with someone who needs care and support — helping them live an independent, fulfilling life.



There are different ways Shared Lives carers provide support:



Long-term placements – welcoming someone to live with you as part of your family.



Short breaks / respite – offering temporary stays to give the person, or their usual carer, a break.



Shared Days – spending time together during the day, supporting activities and social inclusion.

Ategi recruits, trains, and supports self-employed Shared Lives carers who help individuals with everything from cooking and shopping to building confidence, accessing community activities, and living fulfilling, independent lives.

Meet our Shared Lives carers

Claire & Bon

For Claire and Bon, being Shared Lives carers in Cardiff isn't just about offering support – it's about opening their home and hearts to create a real family environment.

Over the years, their household has become a lively, welcoming place where adults with additional needs can grow in confidence and independence. Together with Anthony, Geoff, and Aaron, they've built a home full of warmth, laughter, and belonging.

"If you've got a spare room and a caring nature, go for it, It's one of the most rewarding things you can do."



Every day brings something different – whether it's helping someone get ready for work, sharing stories around the dinner table, or looking after the dogs that everyone adores. Claire and Bon provide structure and encouragement, but also the space for each person to be themselves.

They've seen first-hand how Shared Lives can change lives: people who arrive anxious or uncertain soon settle, thrive, and find friendship. And for Claire and Bon, that's the best reward.

About the Role:

Shared Lives Panel Volunteer

Shared Lives Panel Volunteers help make decisions about approving and supporting Shared Lives carers.

You'll read assessments, join friendly online panel meetings, and share your views to help us make fair, consistent decisions.

Time Commitment



- Around one morning per month or less, sometimes every other month
- Meetings run approximately 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
- Remote – all meetings are online

This flexible role fits easily around other commitments, studies, or part-time work.

Main Tasks



Read and review carer assessment documents and re-approval reviews.



Take part in panel discussions and share your views.



Help decide whether carers meet Ategi's standards.



Maintain confidentiality and follow our Code of Conduct.



Take part in training and stay up to date with relevant policies.

Preparing you for the role

Full training and an Ategi Welcome Pack are provided to help you get started.

You'll be fully supported by Ategi staff and other panel volunteers.

Hear from our past panel members

We spoke to two of our incredible, former, long-standing panel members, Mary Bailey, a Foster & Shared Lives carer and Fiona Conlon, retired social care professional, about why they choose to be panel members and what the role is like.

Ideal Panel Qualities

Empathy | Critical Thinking
Life Experience | Attention
to Detail | Open Mindset

Why did you choose to be on the panel?

- Ensuring people with learning disabilities thrive in family and community life.
- Using decades of real-world experience to make informed, compassionate decisions.

Be prepared to question. You need evidence on how people can do things.

Life experience is one of the best things you can bring to this role."

What does the role involve?

- Reading and reflecting on detailed carer assessments and re-approval documents.
- Asking questions and challenging assumptions where needed.

What are the rewards for you?

It's rewarding, fulfilling, and allows me to contribute to something meaningful.

Making a Real Impact

Mary and Fiona's dedication ensured carers are skilled, compassionate, and ready to provide the support people with learning disabilities need to thrive.

Who we're Looking for...

We welcome people from all backgrounds and experiences.

You might be a good fit if you:

- Have experience in social care, Shared Lives, or supporting people with additional needs, or
- Are studying for a Master's or PhD in a related field and want valuable professional experience, or
- Are a trainee social worker or early-career professional building your knowledge, or
- Are a seasoned professional wanting to stay connected to the sector and share your expertise.

This is a great opportunity for:



Gaining insight into adult social care decision-making.



Adding valuable volunteering and governance experience to your CV.



Building skills in assessment, safeguarding, and quality assurance.



Networking with experienced professionals across the care sector.

Whether you're a student, early-career professional, or someone with years of experience looking to give back—this role offers something meaningful for everyone.

How to apply?

To apply, please email hr@ategi.co.uk



A short email or letter telling us why you're interested in the role and what experience you have.



An up-to-date CV (if you have one).

Applications are reviewed regularly.

If shortlisted, you'll be invited to an informal chat with a Locality/ Scheme Manager.

If you'd like this information in Welsh, please contact Karen Thomas:

☎ 01443 484400 | ✉ karent@ategi.co.uk

Join Us

Whether you're starting your career, studying, or an experienced professional wanting to stay involved — this is your chance to make a real difference.

Be part of something that matters.

Apply today and help people with additional needs live their best lives, their way.