### **Approval**

The Approval Committee's main role is to discuss the suitability of the application.

All information shared with the Home Share Team is treated in the strictest of confidence.

## How often are people placed with Host Carers?

Breaks can be for a couple of hours, overnight, week-ends or even longer. Each arrangement is negotiated around each Host Carer's availability and preference. We would ask for a minimum availability of 6 times a year.

## Is there a payment for being a Host Carer?

This is a voluntary scheme, however Host Carers are paid an allowance.

## What support would I receive doing this?

The Home Share Team will be available to provide on-going support during the assessment process and throughout placements.

Training will be available as appropriate.



## **Home Share**

**INFORMATION LEAFLET** 

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### **Home Share**

**INFORMATION LEAFLET** 

### **Cope Foundation**

Cope Foundation is a non-profit organisation which supports over 2,300 children and adults with intellectual disabilities and/or autism.

One way which Cope Foundation supports children and adults with intellectual disabilities and/or autism is through a Shortbreaks (respite) Service.

## Why are Shortbreaks important for people with a disability and their families?

Many people who have a family member with an intellectual disability take great joy in caring for their loved ones. However, providing this care on an ongoing basis can be tiring and stressful. Having a Shortbreak from this care giving can be of huge benefit to the care giver and their family.

In addition, the person going on the break gets the opportunity to make new friends, widen their social circle, enjoy new experiences and to have a break away in a different environment

### What is Home Share?

Home Share is a community based service that provides short breaks (respite) to children and adults with intellectual disabilities and/or autism. These short breaks take place in the Host Carer's home.

## Who can apply to become a Host Carer?

Host Carers come from a wide variety of backgrounds and can be working, retired with or without children, single or with a partner. Host Carers are fully vetted, assessed and trained volunteers who are carefully matched with each child or adult looking to go on a Shortbreak.

# What if I don't have any experience working with people who have intellectual disabilities or autism?

It is not a requirement to have experience of working with people with a disability. Personal qualities such as being warm and caring, having time and commitment, being reliable and motivated to care are what are required.

### **How are Host Carers assessed?**

Once we have received your application, a member of the Home Share Team will meet with you.

### **Vetting Process**

All host families require Garda clearance, TUSLA clearance, Medical clearance and references. The Home Share Coordinator will guide you through this process.

### **Training**

You will be expected to attend a number of training nights on Home Share, Communication, Positive Behaviour Strategies, Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons and Keeping Safe In Your Home.

#### **Assessment**

A Social Worker will visit the applicant's home between 3-6 times to get to know you and your family. A report will be compiled and shared with you. It will be then forwarded to the Approvals Committee.