

# Innovative Respite/Short Break Services

## **Pathways to Alternative Family & Community Respite/Short Breaks Services**

Home Sharing

or

Host Family Placements

# Video

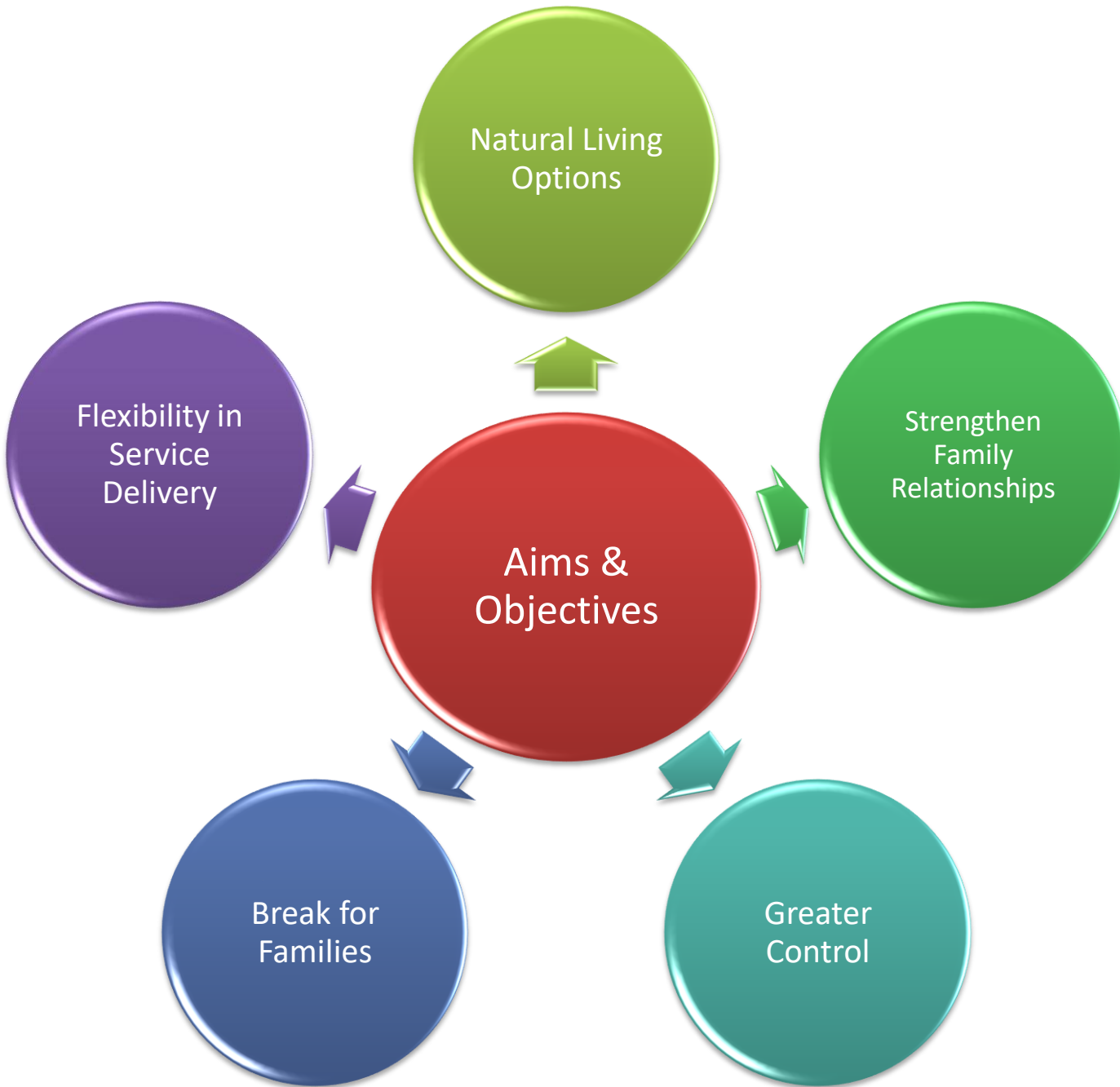
[Home Share Galway Video](#)

# What is Home Sharing?

“A service for a child/adult with an intellectual disability, whereby he/she is offered a short break/holiday/full-time placement with another person/family in the community. It links the person to another local family or individual carer who is specifically recruited and trained for this purpose”

(Report of the National Expert Group, 2016)





# Home Sharing Families

**Home Sharing Families come in all shapes and sizes**

Working

Single

Married

Co-habiting

Retired

Formal qualifications are not necessary but it is desirable to have qualities such as common sense, warmth, patience and flexibility

# Options Available

## Short Breaks Family

Flexible

1 or 2 guests per month

Allowances are paid per session provided

## Contract Family

Contracted to offer 10, 16 or 20 nights per month

Guests with more complex needs

Allowances are paid per session provided as well as a retaining fee

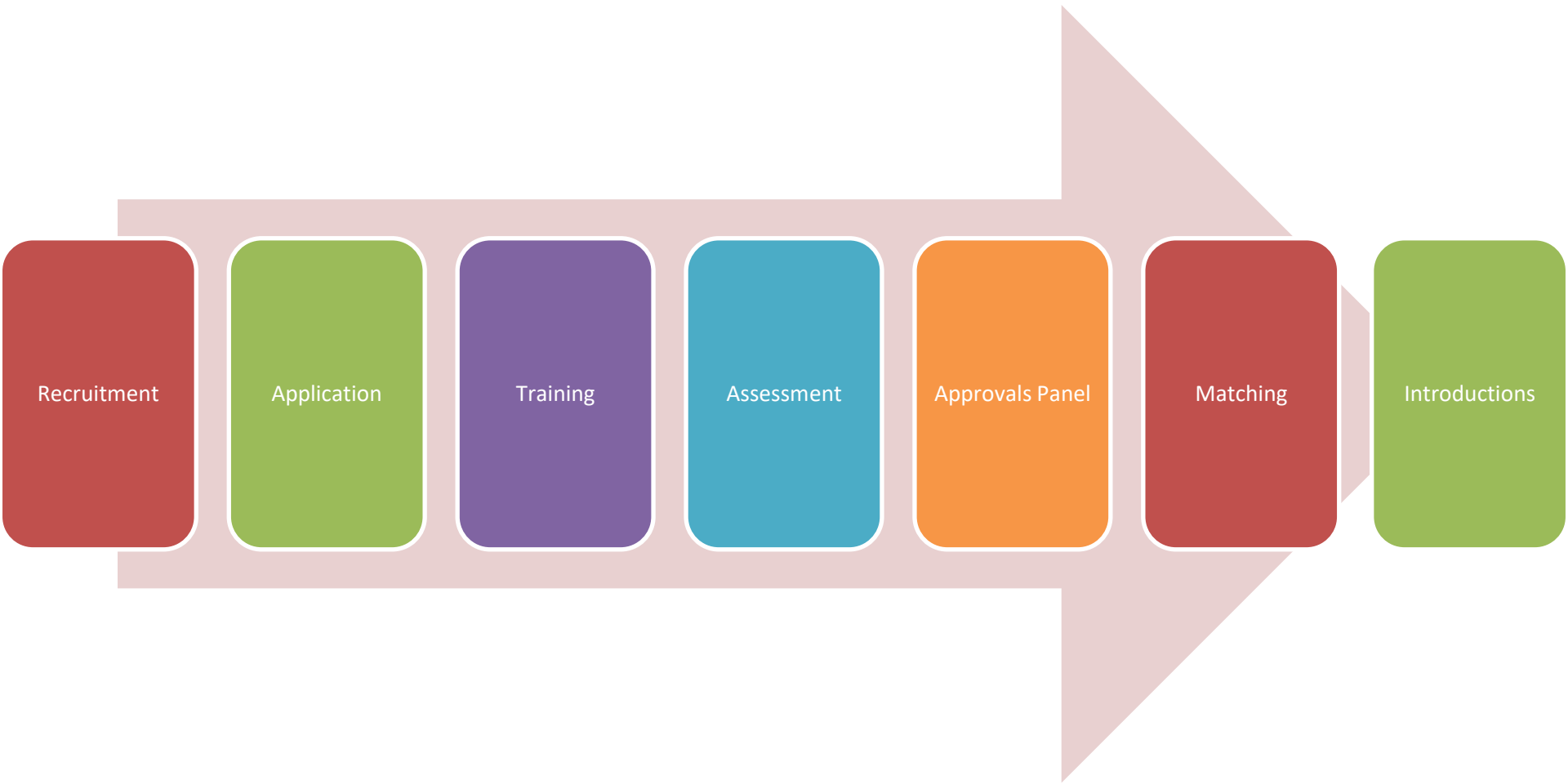
## Shared Living Family

Fulltime supports to person with an intellectual disability

Share their lives experiences

Allowances are paid per night as well as a retaining fee

# Pathway to Becoming a Home Sharing family



# Training

**Session 1:** Introduction to Home Sharing

**Session 2:** Skills of Caring; What do we need to Know. Hopes & Fears

**Session 3:** Safeguarding

**Session 4:** Behaviour Management Workshop

**Session 5:** Medication Training

**Session 6:** Family Day



# Assessment

- A Social Worker is assigned to a potential Home Sharing family to complete the Social Work Assessment
- This process can take up to 3 - 6 visits, each visit lasting approximately one to two hours
- The applicant(s) is/are interviewed jointly, individually and together as a family
- Children, young adults are also met by the Social Worker and included in the Assessment process

# Assessment cont.

- The Assessment form is based on current H.S.E. Fostering assessment practice.
- The relevant Social Worker then completes and discusses the assessment form along with the family.
- The Social Worker also completes a detailed report with recommendations.
- The completed Social Work report, assessment form, medical forms, together with Garda Clearance and the Tusla enquiry report is presented to the Approvals panel

# Approvals Panel

- Members of the Approval Panel:
  - Heads of the Social Work department from Ability West and Brothers of Charity
  - Head of Quality, Enhancement and Development Department of Brothers of Charity
  - Social Worker from the HSE Fostering Department
- The completed Social Work assessment form along with the required paperwork/references are presented by the assessing Social Worker.
- If approval is granted, the applicant(s) is informed by letter; if not they are informed in person and a record is made that the person(s) is advised of their right to appeal the decision.

# Matching

- Anybody wishing to avail of Home Sharing apply to the Short Breaks Prioritisation Committee.
- Each applicant is prioritised depending on their individuals needs and funding available, and if Home Sharing is recommended by the Committee the application is forwarded to the matching panel.
- The matching panel from Home Share Galway review the current Home Sharing waiting list, and review the appropriate matches based on knowledge of the approved Home Sharing families, their skills and abilities relevant to the needs of the service users.
- The person eventually placed with the Home Sharing Family may not be the person they had planned to Home Share initially as the assessment may have identified different suitability.

# Introductions

- Following the matching process introductions then take place facilitated by the Home Sharing link Social Worker & Home Sharing Coordinator, which will include pen picture and Home Sharing welcome booklet.
- This involves the natural family and service user meeting the Home Sharing family.
- If all parties are happy to proceed placements are arranged by the Link worker and supported by the Home Sharing Coordinator.
- Placement Care Plan Agreement and Intimate Care Plan is completed prior to the placement being formalised

# Monitoring/Review

- Ongoing support is provided by the Home Sharing family link Social Worker and Home Sharing Coordinator.
- Further training is provided as required such as Epilepsy, Manual Handling, First Aid etc.
- Reviews of each Home Sharing placement will take place every year.
- Home Sharing family formal reviews take place every 3 years to include new Garda and Tusla vetting; medicals will be required every 5 years.
- Contract Family and Shared Living family formal reviews take place once a year.

# Home Sharing

## Pros

- 'Natural' living option
- Respond to the needs of natural families.
- Strengthen family relationships.
- give individuals and families greater control and choice in the support service they receive.
- Provide a break for the carer whilst being a positive experience for the person with an intellectual disability.
- Gives service providers the flexibility to deliver services in ways that respond to the needs of services users and their carers and families.

## Cons

- Huge demand for services
- Limited funding
- Compatibility issues and Changing needs.
- Recruitment of staff & Home Sharing families in rural areas

# Thank you for listening

For Further Information on:

- Recruitment
- Training
- Assessment Skills
- Budget Management

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