



Social workers - are you in touch with an older person who needs practical support but isn't yet eligible for social care?

Homeshare is an innovative way of bringing together generations, increasing social connections and providing affordable housing options through sharing lives, homes and experiences.



Many older people are not yet in need of social care but require companionship

Homeshare services help older people to continue living independently at home, with practical support and an overnight presence.

“Householders” are often older people who own or are tenants in their own home but have developed some support needs or have become isolated or anxious about living alone. “Homesharers” are often younger people, students, or key public service workers who cannot afford housing where they work.

The homesharer provides around 10 hours per week of practical support to the householder in exchange for good quality affordable housing; this includes tasks such as shopping, cooking, gardening or providing companionship. Together they both share their lives, home, skills and experience.

Homeshare matches are supported by a network of Homeshare providers across the UK who carefully vet, match and oversee each unique Homeshare arrangement.

What do older people enjoy about Homeshare?

- The reassurance of an overnight presence in the home.
- Having consistent companionship and feeling less lonely.
- Having someone to help with practical tasks around the home.
- Learning and teaching new skills.

What do homesharers enjoy about the experience?

- Having a safe and affordable place to live.
- The feeling of living in a ‘home’ not just a ‘house’.
- Having companionship and building a friendship.
- Feeling that they are giving back to the local community.

Social workers create a unique opportunity

Homeshare benefits communities because it provides low level support at little cost for older people who do not necessarily need personal care. They can safely stay living at home for longer with the practical support of a homesharer.

Alternatively, homeshare works well alongside formal social carers who do offer personal care, so the homesharer can provide much needed companionship and practical help around the home.

Homeshare gives people independence and empowers both people involved. It gives family and friends peace of mind, with an overnight presence and a safe and friendly home for both people.





Who are householders?

- Often older people or people who need informal support to continue living in their own home.
- They may have support needs or may have become isolated or anxious about living alone.
- A person that enjoys passing on their skills and experience to enrich the lives of those that Homeshare with them.



Who are homesharers?

- Typically, younger people – creating an intergenerational match.
- Professional students looking for an alternative to halls or student housing.
- Key public service workers who cannot afford housing where they work.
- A person that is happy to give their time to support the needs of older people.

Make a match to enable an older person to live longer at home

Each Homeshare match is bespoke and agreed on a case-by-case basis. Your local Homeshare provider can make a unique match between the person you've got in mind, and a homesharer who has the right interests and skills to support them.

Once a match is made, you will have peace of mind that the person you're supporting has the best support possible for them as an individual.

“It's given me a new perspective on life and even though I hate to admit it I do need a bit of extra help round the house – I'm not getting any younger!”

Householder - London

Key facts:

- No personal care is involved, only practical support and companionship is provided.
- All Homeshare participants are vetted, and matches are based on interests, lifestyle and hobbies. The Homeshare is supported and carefully monitored by a local Homeshare organisation.
- Homesharing is not a rental service, so a homesharer doesn't pay rent.
- The householder and homesharer both pay a fee to their local Homeshare organisation to cover the costs of their ongoing service and monitoring support. The homesharer will contribute to the householder towards utility bills.

How to make a referral:

- Visit **www.homeshareuk.org**, click on the 'Find a Homeshare Provider' button, and enter your location to find your local Homeshare programme.
- Contact your local Homeshare provider to discuss the services they offer and their Homesharing availability and suitability.



**Contact your local
Homeshare provider:**

Registered Charity Number (England and Wales): 1095562
Registered Charity Number (Scotland): SC042743
Company Number: 4511426
VAT Number: 302 6201 63

