

Homeshare state of the sector report

2023- 2024



What is Homeshare?

Homeshare matches those wanting companionship and help around the home with people looking for affordable accommodation, creating mutually beneficial arrangements that enhance quality of life. Homesharers provide around 10 hours of practical support each week in exchange for a comfortable place to live in the householder's home.

This support can include help with household tasks, such as shopping, cleaning, and preparing meals, as well as reassurance and friendship, delaying the need for costly formal care services.

When Cat moved in with Molly, her presence in the home improved Molly's mental health and helped maintain her independence. You can watch their story with Homeshare Living here: [Molly's Homeshare Story.](#)



What is the Homeshare UK Network?

Homeshare UK is a vibrant network of likeminded individuals who are passionate about delivering Homeshare in a safe and effective way. This supportive group is made up of 19 organisations across the UK, all using a values driven, person centred approach. These organisations are charities, Community Interest Companies, or part of local authorities, with staff mostly working part-time¹.

17 of our members contributed to this report, and together they supported a total of 59 matches over the last 13 months. Another 23 householders and 54 homesharers were waiting to be matched across the network.

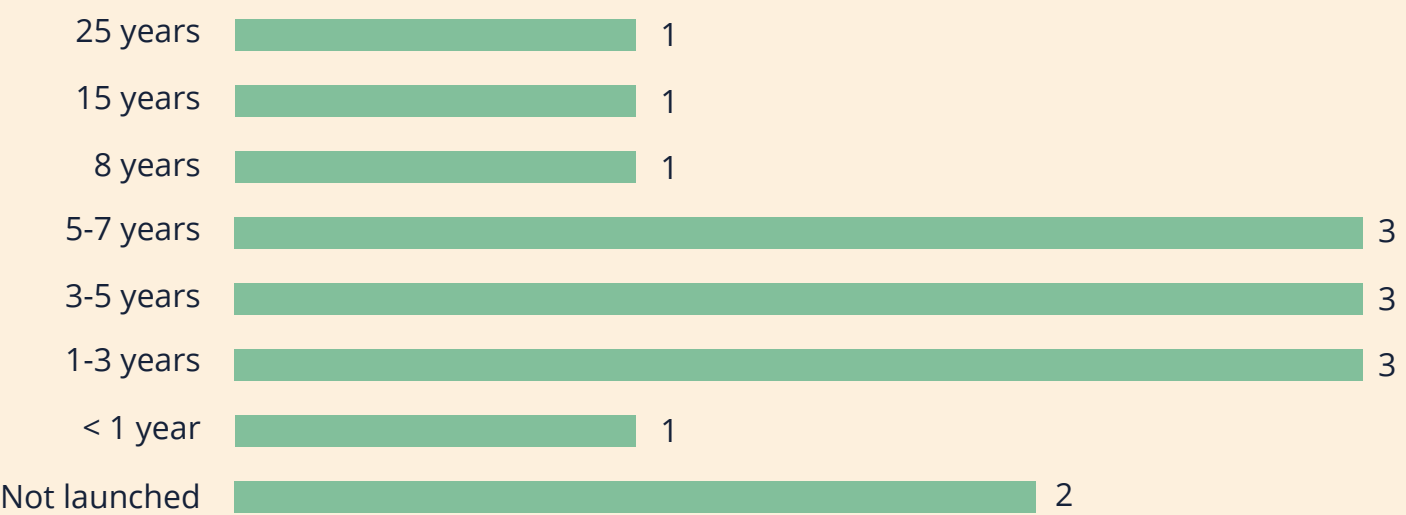
¹ 4 full time staff, 13 part time staff and 3 volunteers across 12 organisations.



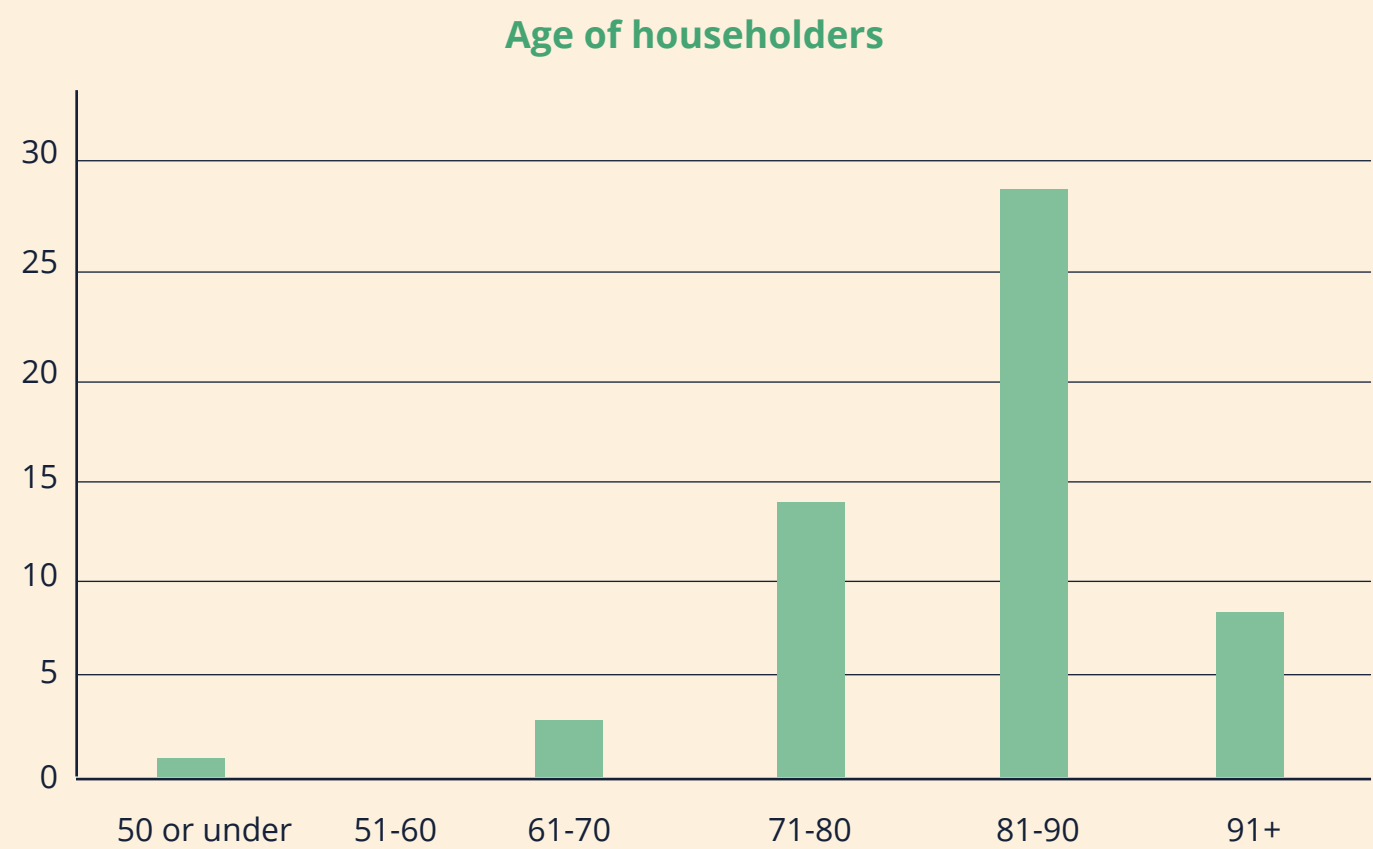
- Homeshare Age UK Gloucestershire
- Homeshare Norfolk and Suffolk
- Homeshare Living
- Cambridge Homeshare
- Lightshare Homesharing
- Novus Homeshare
- Rhannu Cartef Gwynedd Homeshare
- Homeshare West
- Homeshare Leicestershire
- Shared Homes Swansea
- Leeds Homeshare
- Homeshare York
- Homeshare Oxfordshire
- River House Trust
- Grace Eyre Homeshare Sussex
- Age UK Reading Homeshare
- Share My Home
- North West Homeshare*
- Kirklees Homeshare*
- Hameshare *

***not currently operating**

How many years have our Homeshare members been operating?



Who are householders?



In 2023-2024 the majority (three quarters) of householders were female, with most aged over 71. Householders were commonly older people living alone or as part of a couple, with over half living with a disability. The reason householders supported by our members chose to share their homes included:

- Companionship/friendship and to reduce loneliness
- Support at home, an alternative to residential care or sheltered housing
- Reassurance/peace of mind, most particularly at night
- Help with household tasks
- Helping a younger person
- Making use of the space in their home
- To reduce household bills
- Assistance to get out and about

Kate, a householder with Homeshare Oxfordshire said, “Emily coming changed my situation, we go out in the car and do things without disrupting my own children.”

You can watch their story and many others here: [Homeshare Oxfordshire: More than just the match.](#)

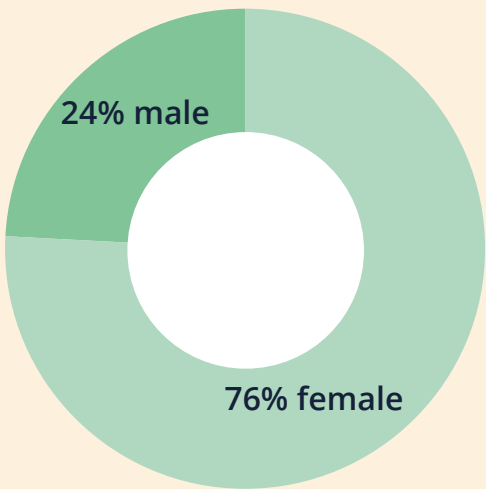


Who are homesharers?

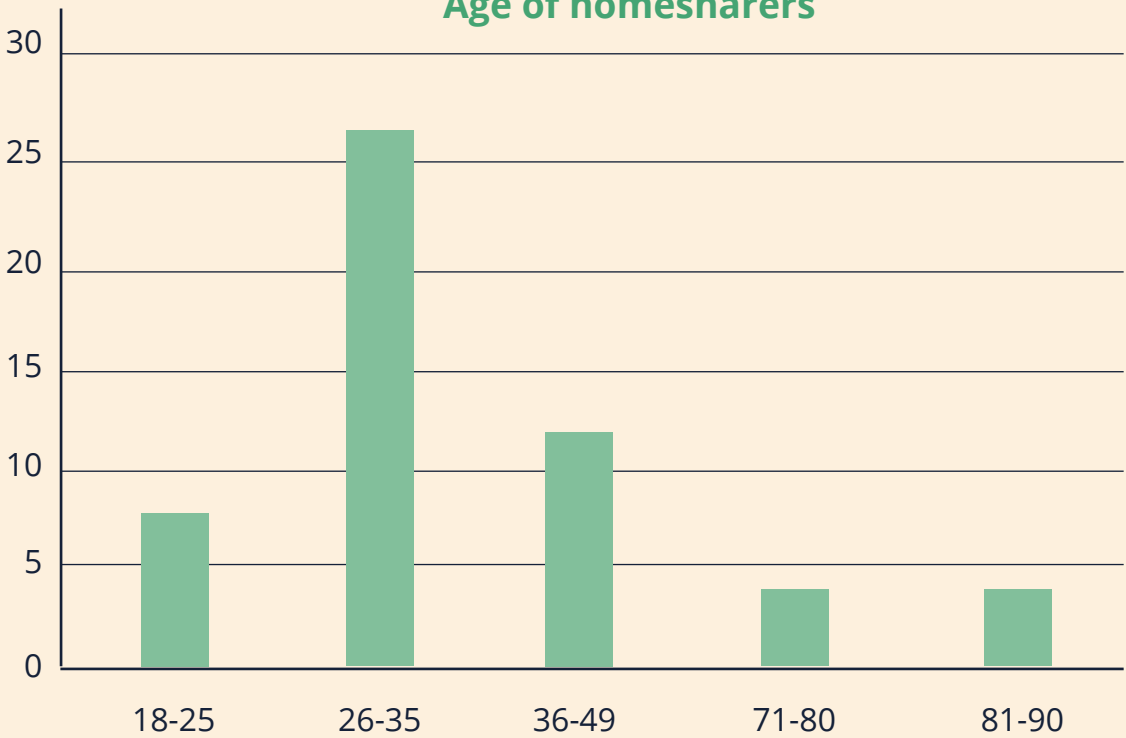
Homesharers are people of all ages who choose Homeshare for a variety of reasons. In 2023-2024 homesharers chose Homeshare for:

- Affordable accommodation
- Companionship and to reduce their own loneliness
- Wishing to help others and give back to society
- Wanting to live in a settled and friendly household
- Being new to an area

Homesharers’ gender



Age of homesharers



Homesharers have diverse circumstances, but across our network were most commonly students, young professionals or midlife professionals living with older householders. However, this is not always the case, as Sheila and Anne’s friendship shows.

Sheila and Anne, Homeshare Oxfordshire

Having cared for her husband through Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, following his death Sheila moved into her new home in June. "My daughter and son helped me through that time. After nursing my husband for so long, I didn't really grieve; I felt relief for him. I was quite withdrawn and I think I became less active and social," Sheila said.



It was following a number of falls and knee surgery that Sheila's family began to look for support. Whilst they visited their mother often, Sheila was keen not to burden her children, mindful of their busy lives. A google search by Sheila's daughter Sam, found Homeshare Oxfordshire, with Sam telling her mum, "Wow, this looks ideal!" Sheila agreed and added, "Homeshare's a good name because it's describes the two way – it's not just about someone receiving help."

Anne, a retired nurse, writer and peace activist, sought time to write after decades of caregiving and travel. "Saying goodbye to nursing was hard because I've done it since I was 18. But I needed space to write. Coming to Sheila's was perfect," Anne said.

And Sheila's family agreed "What a match Homeshare Oxfordshire made! We shall always hold Anne dear for this amazing gift she gave us all."

Their Homeshare arrangement provided mutual support, with Anne saying, "There must be mutual respect. We communicate clearly—no checklist, just chatting. It might seem strange for an 86-year-old and an 83-year-old to share but being from the same generation works well because we share humour and perspectives." Sheila added, "We settled into a happy routine and share many interests."

Sheila died in August following a short illness.

Why does Homeshare work?

It's cost effective

Homeshare organisations received between £150 and £275 per month from Homesharers, with an average of £170 per month across the Homeshare UK network.

Householders paid between £25 and £275, with an average of £140 a month, to the Homeshare organisation.

Contributions towards utility bills and council tax from the homesharer were mutually agreed, with the most common contribution towards utility bills being £50 and the homesharer often contributing to council tax to ensure the householder is not out of pocket if they lose the single- person council tax discount.

Homesharers do not pay rent and are not lodgers or tenants.



Family, friends and individuals can refer themselves to Homeshare organisations

Unlike formal care services, where a social work assessment is required, people can self-refer, be referred by their loved ones or signposted to Homeshare by another organisation or service².

It enables people to stay in their own homes

“We looked at various housing arrangements for Mum. Having a homesharer has by far been the best choice with many advantages for staying in her home with the wonderful support of the Homeshare West matched sharer.”

² Half of organisations report that most referrals come from family and friends, with the other half reporting self-referral as the most common.

Reciprocity, mutual benefit and careful matching

"It's fantastic. I'm aware of the ethos behind Homeshare, to help people meet across the generations and we're really doing that, and it's wonderful. I need help in the home, and I've got space for somebody else... it's a way of giving back which is hopefully mutually beneficial," said Rachel householder with Leeds Homeshare.



Illustration by artist and homesharer Isabel Booth, Leeds Homeshare

Homeshare is flexible and responsive

Two matches in the Homeshare UK Network had been in place for over 4 years, whilst three-quarters of matches reported were less than 2 years old³.

When circumstances change Homeshare organisations can provide support for both homesharers and householders and help facilitate a rematch when necessary.

3 Match Durations: (11 organisations responded)

Active less than 6 months: 11 matches

Active between 1 and 2 years: 7 matches

Active between 2 and 3 years: 2 matches

Active between 3 and 4 years: 2 matches

Active over 4 years: 2 matches

It supports families

For families like Joyce's, the Homeshare model has been transformative. Referred to Homeshare Gloucestershire in 2019 by her GP's social prescriber, Joyce initially sought extra reassurance alongside her existing care. Now in her 90s, Joyce values the companionship of her homesharer, Camelia, who provides support and friendship. Joyce's family has found the Homeshare arrangement invaluable:

"The support Mum has received from her homesharers has far exceeded our expectations for such a modest cost. It's the little things, like unloading the washing machine or driving into town, that make a huge difference to her daily life. Knowing someone is there gives us such peace of mind."



It can work alongside care services

12 people living in a Homeshare arrangement accessed statutory assessed care services, including Susan.

Susan first approached Homeshare West in 2019 when she was in residential care due to worsening mobility caused by severe rheumatoid arthritis. She decided to try returning home with a care package for her personal care needs and support from a sharer. To date, Susan has had three homesharers, her current being a PhD student.

Due to her disability, Susan dreads being alone overnight, as she feels most vulnerable at that time. She values the presence of her sharer for several reasons: company during the evenings, helping with shopping, having freshly cooked meals at weekends, being taken on occasional outings in her wheelchair and, of course, the comfort of having someone there at night.

Susan says, “We get on well, it’s lovely to have a friend to talk with.”

Susan’s story perfectly illustrates how well Homesharing can work for someone who wants to feel safe at home, whilst enjoying like-minded company.


Homeshare organisations listen to what matters most to people, to help create practically supportive and mutually-beneficial Homeshare living arrangements, that promote wellbeing, independence, friendship and choice.

For more information on the Homeshare model and the Homeshare UK Network of providers visit www.homeshare.org







**Find out more about Homeshare
at the Homeshare UK website or
contact our friendly team:**

 0151 227 3499

 www.homeshareuk.org

 contact@homeshareuk.org

 HomeshareUKNetwork

 @homeshare_UK

