



What is Homeshare and Who Does it Help?

Homeshare offers a simple but effective solution to meeting housing and support needs. It enables people to preserve their independence, remain living in their own homes, while providing affordable accommodation to capable homesharers who can offer both companionship and practical support.

Homeshare is based on the principle of exchange; the "Householder" offers accommodation and the individual sharing the home, the "Homesharer" can give practical support around the home and offer companionship. It is a very flexible concept that can meet many people's needs and is adaptable to a variety of circumstances. Homeshare can benefit:

- Older people
- People with Disabilities
- Carers
- Individuals looking for affordable accommodation in London, Southern England and the Midlands

Homesharing is unique in that both parties benefit. Many Householders will accept help from their Homesharer because they are giving something in return. For Homesharers, especially those working or studying in a new area, homesharing can offer inexpensive housing, companionship and the chance to live in a homely environment. Homesharing also benefits the community as a whole by helping maintain people's independence in their homes, preventing more costly interventions by statutory services and bringing together people with diverse backgrounds and experiences. Homesharing has social impact and saves money in the long-term for many beneficiaries.

The Householder offers a spare bedroom and a share of the home's facilities in return for 10-15 hours a week of practical support. This can involve cooking, light cleaning and shopping and is based on the householder's needs and the sharers abilities. It does not include any personal care. An important feature of Homeshare is that the Homesharer is present 7 nights a week.

Homesharers continue their regular job and or studies during the day. The 10-15 hours weekly support is usually spread across the week and weekend. This is agreed on an individual basis reliant on availability and preference of both parties. The sharer has two days to themselves per week, although they still sleep in the house. One weekend (from Friday night, returning on Sunday) per month they can go away if they wish. Any annual leave should be agreed and discussed between both parties prior to a match being agreed.

Who is Homeshare for?

Householders can be single people or couples and often tend to be older people or those with a disability or illness.

Homesharers are adults (18 years and over) and come from all walks of life, backgrounds and cultures. They must be able to commit to giving 10-15 hours support to a Householder but are likely to be working or studying. Some Homesharers have jobs in public sector work, for example in health and social services and in education.

The Homeshare scheme offers sharers a good way to get started in employment where the cost of accommodation is otherwise unaffordable.

Enquiries are welcomed at any time from capable, responsible people who are seeking accommodation, can give a minimum commitment of 6 months and who have a positive interest in the welfare of others.

Fees

A monthly fee is charged to both the Householder and the Homesharer to help cover the cost of running the Homeshare service. No money is exchanged between Householder and Homesharer.

What are the benefits of Homeshare?

If you're a householder:

- Enables you to remain in your home
- Keep your independence
- Get help with daily tasks
- Companionship
- Security of having someone in your home at night
- Help with support you might otherwise have to pay for
- Peace of mind that we have carried out references and security checks
- Reassurance for the family and friends that you are not alone

If you're a homesharer:

Affordable accommodation

The chance to live-in an area or property that might otherwise be out of your reach financially

Living in a safe and friendly environment

Companionship – reduce isolation and loneliness by increasing engagement and independence

Sharing life-skills and experiences

What Homeshare is not

The sharer does not provide support with any personal care, such as bathing, dressing, using the toilet or taking medication.

Homesharers need to offer commitment and time. Home share is not simply free accommodation.

Both parties need to be assessed as having capacity in order to be able to commit to the sharing arrangement.

The Homeshare team facilitates the partnership and can offer support, but Householders and Homesharers remain in control of the process and take responsibility for its success. They enter into a binding agreement which Supportmatch brokers.

It is important that if you want to be part of a Homeshare partnership that you have a good understanding of Homeshare and its boundaries.

The Homeshare Team - What We Do

The team identifies potential homesharers and householders through application forms which need to be completed by both applicants. We will carry out interviews with both parties and use this information carefully to match householders with homesharers. Householders will be visited at home to assess their needs, preferences and their home.

An introductory visit is only arranged when the coordinator feels satisfied that the Sharer and Householder are a positive match.

Homeshare is not an emergency service but coordinators aim to arrange a Homeshare match within one month where possible.

The team will carry out a DBS (Criminal Record Bureau) enhanced check and obtain 2 references for the homesharer.

If the match is successful and acceptable to both parties they sign an Agreement laying out the expectations and rules of conduct for each. They also receive and sign a document from Homeshare setting out the terms and conditions for the on-going support they will receive from the organisation.

Throughout your time with Homeshare the team will be available to assist you with any enquiries or issues you may have. The team will also follow their own monitoring process and organize reviews to ensure that the match is maintained successfully.

If the arrangement is not working for either person we will support both of you with the process of ending the agreement and identify new matches where possible.



Referrals and Enquires

Homeshare takes self, family, or any other third party referrals and enquires.

On-going Support

The Homeshare manager and coordinators provide support to the Householder and Homesharer on an on-going basis. During the first month, following the agreement of a homesharing match, they closely monitor how things are going and help to clarify and resolve any difficulties. Following this they keep in regular contact and also offer an annual review of the Homeshare arrangement on request.

The Homeshare service operates in office hours (Monday- Friday, 9am- 5pm) and staff is available to take telephone calls and respond to all other contact. If you do leave a telephone message or email outside of these hours Homeshare aim to respond to your correspondence in a timely manner.

Homeshare aims to provide an efficient, professional, and friendly service. A complaints procedure is available if users of the Homeshare service are dissatisfied with the standard of service they receive. Complaints aim to be dealt with promptly and with sensitivity.

Terms of Service within the Homeshare Arrangement

- The first month is a trial month where only one week notice is due to terminate the homeshare arrangement, thereafter one month notice is required
- Where possible we advise to spread the Homesharers 10-15 hours over 4/5 days
- A homesharer is not a carer: no personal care is involved
- Supportmatch offers an excellent monitoring service both via telephone and in person, if needed the Householder is visited regularly and helped to facilitate a routine with the homesharer. Homesharers are regularly monitored to guarantee the Householder the support needed

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(Terms of Service continued)

- Supportmatch offers a unique service to both householders and homesharers where the Supportmatch team is contactable 24/7 and able to promptly resolve problems to minimize the impact of issues between the householder and the homesharer
- Supportmatch will respect confidentiality of information held at all time
- The Homeshare Agreement sets out the relationship between the Householder and the Homesharer. The homesharing relationship is not intended to be an employment relationship.
- The Homesharer is responsible for their own food and personal bills
- The Householder will allow a share of facilities of the house (kitchen, bathroom, living area)
- The householder will be able to provide a bedroom for the use of the Homesharer within the health and safety standards
- Homeshare services are provided in accordance with our equal opportunities policy
- An agreement describing the terms above is signed prior to the arrangement starting

To discuss your referral, or for any other enquiries please contact us:

Supportmatch has over 10 years' experience of matching.

We offer services in London, across Southern England and the Midlands

Senior Coordinators:

sibel@supportmatch.co.uk Mobile: Sibel 07742 807677

zaira@supportmatch.co.uk Mobile: Zaira 07847 072490

Tel: 01604 905517 (office hours or 24 hour answer service)

Email: info@supportmatch.co.uk

An application takes one month to process, to gain references and complete checks.

Supportmatch - a homeshare matching service
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Supportmatch
Homeshare Service



**Matching People Who Need
Support With Those Who
Can Give It**

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