Applying as a Sharer to Homeshare

Age UK Hillingdon, Harrow and Brent

**Homeshare brings together people who need affordable accommodation and who are happy to chat and lend a hand, with older people who have a spare room and would welcome someone into their home.**

A Homeshare arrangement provides mutual benefit to both the Householder and the Sharer. It allows Householders and Sharers to share accommodation, enjoy company and be part of each other’s lives. The Sharer benefits from affordable accommodation and the Householder benefits from the Sharer’s help with household and other agreed tasks.

In return for the accommodation the Sharer gives the Householder 10 hours of their time each week as a combination of practical help and companionship.

Each Homeshare match is individual.  The type of support may include some light housework, cooking, shopping, gardening, help with computers and technology, or spending time together over a meal or cup of tea. The presence of another person in the house, especially overnight, may also benefit the Householder.

A Homeshare match does not involve any personal care.

Fees and Costs

Monthly fees are payable to Age UK Hillingdon, Harrow and Brent to cover the setting up of the Homeshare and the regular support provided for the length of the arrangement. The fees also enable Age UK Hillingdon, Harrow and Brent to run Homeshare as a sustainable scheme.

The Sharer pays £200 per month. The Householder pays £100 per month.

The Sharer also makes a contribution to the Householder of an agreed amount towards household costs.

Criteria for Sharers

Criteria for Sharers

**We want to make sure that Homeshare is right for you.**

**Please read the following criteria.**

Sharers must:

* Be aged 21 or older.
* Be looking for accommodation in Hillingdon, Harrow or Brent.
* Be kind and considerate and would enjoy living with someone, most likely to be of a different generation to them.
* Be willing to undergo the assessment and matching process, including providing personal/professional referenced and evidence of financial security.
* Be willing and able to provide 10 hours of their time each week as practical help and/or companionship to a Householder. (Personal care not included).
* Be willing and able to commit to Homeshare for a minimum period of 6 months. (Please note should a match not be working out notice can be given at any time).
* Be willing and able to stay overnight at the property most nights. (Subject to the requirements of the Householder and written into the agreement).
* Disclose any spent or unspent convictions and undergo an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS).
* Be eligible to live in the UK.

**If you have any questions regarding the above, or feel that you would like to Homeshare but do not quite fit all the above criteria, please get in touch with us.**

Matching process for Sharers

**Application**

If you meet the scheme’s criteria on page 2,

Contact Age UK Hillingdon, Harrow and Brent for an application form. Complete and send it to us.

**Meeting the Householder**

Having agreed to meet a potential Householder we set up a meeting in their home with a member of the Homeshare team who will be there to support the meeting and answer any questions. A decision to go ahead (or not) is shared by the Householder and Sharer with the Homeshare team by telephone after the meeting. If both decide to go ahead, we begin to make arrangements for moving in. If not, we will look for another Householder for you.

**Matching with potential Householders**

When we have identified a potential match for you we will show you the Householder’s profile, show the Householder your profile and you both let us know if you would like to meet each other.

**What we do next**

We contact your referees and

arrange to come and meet you.

**Interview**

We meet you and discuss the practical help you are happy to provide and how Homeshare might work for you.

**Your Profile**

Together we create your Sharer profile where you say a bit about yourself and why you’d like to be part of Homeshare

**Moving in and the Future**

Once a move-in date has been agreed, a member of the Homeshare team will set up a time to meet you and your Householder, prior to the move-in day, to go through paperwork and agreements as well as talk through the start of the Homeshare with you.

**Once set up, we will keep in touch throughout the Homeshare through regular meetings and phone calls to support you in any way we can.**

Criteria for Householders

**We also ensure that our Householders meet the following:**

* Be aged 50 or over.
* Live in Hillingdon, Harrow or Brent.
* Be happy to welcome someone into their home, most likely to be of a different generation.
* Be able to provide a spare bedroom and be happy to share their living space (kitchen, bathroom, living room).
* Require limited practical support in the home and/or companionship to remain living independently such that can be met by a Sharer providing 10 hours a week of help. (Personal care not included).
* Be willing to commit to a Homeshare arrangement for a minimum of 6 months.

(Please note should a match not be working out notice can be given at any time).

* Be willing to undergo the assessment and matching process, including providing contact details of 2 referees.
* Disclose any spent or unspent criminal convictions
* Be able to demonstrate that they can meet the monthly fee requirements.
* Complete a gas safety check in the home prior to a match and annually thereafter, as well as complying with any other health and safety-related requirements

Other Information

**Confidentiality, Equality and Safeguarding**

Homeshare is a service run by Age UK Hillingdon, Harrow and Brent and adheres to Age UK Hillingdon, Harrow and Brent policies and procedures. This ensures the service is run in a safe and supported way.

Both Householders and Sharers are asked to read and follow our Confidentiality, Equality and Safeguarding policies and procedures.

Both Householders and Sharers are required to have a completed enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS) before the Homeshare agreement can commence.

**Home Insurance**

Sharers will need to arrange their own insurance cover for personal possessions.

Making an Application

Please read the criteria on page 2 and if you would like to be sent an application form contact Sam Young on **020 3957 8671** or email Homeshare@ageukhhb.org.uk

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