

Applying to Homeshare Oxford

Homeshare Oxford carefully matches older people living in Oxfordshire who are looking for help or companionship at home, with younger people needing affordable accommodation, happy to lend a hand and be part of a home.

A Homeshare arrangement provides mutual benefit to both 'Householder' and 'Sharer'. In return for the accommodation the Sharer gives the Householder up to 10 hours of their time each week as practical help and/or companionship. The reassuring presence of another person in the house overnight is sometimes important to the Householder too.

Each Homeshare match is individual and carefully agreed. It may include some cooking and light housework, help with computers and technology, maybe some shopping or gardening, spending time together over a meal or cup of tea as well as occasional trips out. The companionship element of a Homeshare arrangement is often an important aspect for Householder and Sharer alike.

A Homeshare match does not involve any personal care.

Fees and costs

Monthly fees are payable to Homeshare Oxford by Householder and Sharer. These fees cover the costs of setting up the Homeshare arrangement and the regular, ongoing contact and support provided by the Homeshare Oxford team.

The Householder pays £100 per month (which works out at just over £3 per day). The Householder also pays a set-up-fee of £75 to Homeshare Oxford once a match with a Sharer has been agreed.

The Sharer pays £200 per month to Homeshare Oxford. The Sharer makes a contribution to the Householder of an agreed amount towards household costs.

Homeshare Oxford is the local Homeshare organisation for Oxfordshire, part of Age UK Oxfordshire, a registered charity, and, as such, operates on a not-for-profit basis.

The process

The application form

Once you have checked that you are happy with the Homeshare eligibility criteria on pages 4 & 5, please request an application form and return it to us.



Informal interview

If you are a **Householder**, we will visit you at home, to talk more about the Homeshare arrangement and the sort of help or companionship you would like.

If you are **Sharer**, we will also meet you in person to talk more about the sort of Homeshare arrangement that would suit you. Depending on various circumstances, this meeting may need to wait until a suitable Householder has been identified.

If it is not easy for you to get to Oxford or Abingdon, we can sometimes arrange a Skype call in the first instance.



References and checks

Safety is central to Homeshare Oxford and we carry out the following checks:

Written References – We take up references for Householders and Sharers.

Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Checks (formerly CRB). We ask Householders and Sharers to disclose any convictions. We request an enhanced DBS check for Sharers.

Home Safety Checks – Smoke Alarms, Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Gas Safety are all checked. These may well already be in place but if new checks are needed, we can link you to Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and to providers of Gas Safety checks.

Finding the right person for you

We draw up with you a profile which says a bit about you, the things that are important and of interest to you, and the sort of Homeshare arrangement you would like.

Householder profiles detail the sort of help you would like and Sharer profiles the sort of help you can offer. We show your profile to someone who might be a potential match and who we think you may like to meet.



Meeting up and getting to know your match

Once a Householder and Sharer have decided they would like to meet each other, we arrange an introductory meeting. It's a chance to meet each other and for the Sharer to see the room and the house, to talk through how the arrangement could work. A member of the Homeshare Oxford team would also be there.

We encourage people not to make an immediate decision but to let Homeshare Oxford know the following day if they would like to go ahead with the Homeshare. Occasionally, a second meeting can be arranged, if both Householder and Sharer would like this.



Drawing up the Homeshare agreement and moving in

Once a decision has been made to go ahead, the specifics of the Homeshare Agreement are agreed by both parties, a start date is agreed and the Homeshare can begin!



Thereafter.....

The Homeshare Oxford team will keep in regular touch, both in person and over the phone, to support the Homeshare and to ensure that it runs smoothly.

Homeshare Oxford now has two or three social events a year, to which all are invited to attend. These are good opportunities to meet other people involved in Homeshare Oxford.

Eligibility checklist for Householders

Before making an application as a Householder, please check that you meet the following criteria:

You are:

- Aged 50 or over
- Living in Oxfordshire
- Happy to welcome someone, most likely of a different generation to you, into a clean and reasonably tidy home
- Able to provide a spare room and be happy to share living space (kitchen, bathroom and living room, by arrangement if necessary)
- Happy to receive up to 10 hours a week of practical help and/or companionship from the Sharer (this must not involve any personal care)
- Able to commit to a Homeshare arrangement for a minimum of 6 months (though a Homeshare is usually of a longer duration)
- Willing to provide contact details of 2 referees
- Willing to tell us about any spent or unspent convictions– they may not automatically exclude you, but we need to know about them
- Able to provide an up-to-date gas safety certificate and have working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms to meet all safety requirements (*if needed, we can link you to Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and to providers of Gas Safety checks*)
- Able to meet the monthly fee requirements.

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.

Eligibility checklist for Sharers

Before making an application as a Sharer, please check that you meet the following criteria:

You are :

- Aged 21 or older
- Looking for accommodation in Oxfordshire
- Eligible to live in the UK
- Have a clear work/study routine
- Kind and considerate, clean and tidy, and would enjoy shared living with someone most likely to be of a different generation to you
- Happy to provide up to 10 hours of your time each week as practical help and/or companionship to a Householder (no personal care is involved)
- Able to commit to a Homeshare for a minimum of 6 months (though a Homeshare arrangement is usually of a longer duration)
- Able to stay overnight at the property most nights
- Able to provide contact details of 3 referees who would provide references – character, employer/academic and landlord
- Willing to tell us about any spent or unspent convictions (they may not automatically exclude you, but we need to know about them) and undergo an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check
- Able to meet the monthly fee requirements.

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.

Contact Us

To request an application form, or for any further information, please contact us:

Telephone: 01865 410 670

Email: homeshare@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

Webpage: www.homeshareoxford.org.uk

See our webpage www.homeshareoxford.org.uk for further information, including a short film and information about our current Homeshare opportunities.