

Applying to Homeshare Oxfordshire

Homeshare Oxfordshire carefully matches an older person, or couple, looking for help, companionship or reassurance at home, with another person who is happy to lend a hand, and who needs affordable accommodation. **The Sharer gives the Householder up to 10 hours of their time each week as a combination of companionship and practical help, as agreed.** Each party pays a monthly fee to Homeshare Oxfordshire.

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.

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, arranged time together over shared meal perhaps, or the odd trip out. Sometimes the reassuring presence of having someone else in the house, especially at night, is particularly important. 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 Oxfordshire 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 Oxfordshire team.

The Householder pays from £150 per month (around £5 per day). The Sharer pays £200 per month to Homeshare Oxfordshire.

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

NB Whilst we try to keep costs to a minimum and ensure that a Homeshare arrangement offers good value for money, if your circumstances are such that these costs are prohibitive, please contact us.

The process

Pre-application stage and application form

Before we ask potential Householders and Sharers to complete a full application form, we ask for confirmation that you meet the Homeshare eligibility criteria (see page 4). We also ask you to tell us a little about yourselves as well as why you would like to Homeshare.

If you are interested as a Sharer, we also need an idea of your daily routine and where you would like to live (including any current opportunities you are interested in).

Please provide the information above via the online form at the bottom of our webpage. www.homeshareoxfordshire.org.uk. If this is not possible, please email or telephone us.

All being well with the stage above, we will then send you the full application form for completion.

Informal interview

If you are a **Householder**, we will arrange with you to 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 to meet in person, we can arrange a video call in the first instance.

References and checks

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

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

Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Checks - 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 Householders to Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and to providers of Gas Safety checks.

Finding the right person for you

We draw up a profile with you which describes you, your circumstances, 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 share your profile with the person who might be a potential match for you and whom we think you may like to meet.

Introductory meeting

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, talk about how the arrangement could work and for the Sharer to see the room and the house. A member of the Homeshare Oxfordshire team is present and facilitates the meeting.

We ask Householder and Sharer not to make an immediate decision as to whether they would like to go ahead with the Homeshare arrangement, but to contact Homeshare Oxfordshire within 24 hours to discuss. Occasionally, a second meeting may be arranged, if both either Householder and Sharer would like this.

Drawing up the Homeshare agreement and moving In

Once a decision has been made to go ahead, a bespoke Agreement is drafted and shared with both parties. Once finalised and all documentation and checks are in place, the Homeshare Agreement is signed by all parties and the Homeshare can begin.

Ongoing, thereafter...

The Homeshare Oxfordshire team maintains regular contact with Householder (and family members if agreed) and Sharer, in person and/or over the telephone, to monitor and support the Homeshare and to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

Homeshare Oxfordshire organises several social events each year which everyone is invited to. These are popular opportunities for people Homesharing to meet each other and be part of a Homeshare community.

Householder checklist

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

You are:

- Aged 50 or over and living in Oxfordshire
- Happy to welcome someone, most likely of a different generation, into a clean and safe home
- Able to provide a spare bedroom and happy to share living space
- Looking for up to 10 hours a week of practical help and companionship from the Sharer (this must not involve any personal care)
- Able to commit to a minimum of 9 months (although a Homeshare arrangement is usually longer)
- Willing to provide contact details of 2 referees
- Willing to tell us about any spent or unspent convictions
- Able to provide an up-to-date gas safety certificate, confirm working smoke 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.

Sharer checklist

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

You are:

- Aged 21 or older and looking for accommodation in Oxfordshire
- Eligible to live in the UK
- Have an established clear work/study routine. Please note, it is not easy to find Homeshares for people who work long shifts or night shifts
- Emotionally mature & stable, kind & considerate, clean & tidy
- Someone who would enjoy and value living with an older person or couple
- 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 minimum of 9 months (although a Homeshare arrangement is usually longer)
- Able to stay overnight at the property, except when agreed otherwise
- Able to provide contact details of 3 referees who would provide references
- 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 criteria or feel that you would like to Homeshare but do not quite fulfil the criteria, please contact us.

COVID: We continue to operate as safely as possible following guidelines, protocols, and taking into account the circumstances and needs of each individual. Please do talk to us about this if you need further information.

Contact us

Follow us!   

Phone: 01865 410670

Email: homeshare@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

Webpage: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/our-services/homeshare-oxfordshire/>

Homeshare Oxfordshire is the local Homeshare provider for the county, operating on a not-for-profit basis as part of Age UK Oxfordshire www.ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

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Homeshare Oxfordshire is a member of Homeshare UK, the UK network for Homeshare organisations, and has completed the Homeshare UK Quality Assurance Framework as part of our ongoing commitment to providing a safe and effective service.