

Applying as a Householder to Homeshare Oxford

Homeshare Oxford carefully matches up older people who live in Oxfordshire and who may need a bit of help to continue to live independently at home, with another person who needs affordable accommodation, wants to be part of a home and can lend a hand.

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 daily life. 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 up to 10 hours' time each week in a combination of companionship and practical help.

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 and occasional trips out.

A Homeshare match does not involve any personal care.

Fees and costs

The Householder pays a 'Set-up fee' to Homeshare Oxford of £75 once a match with a Sharer has been agreed.

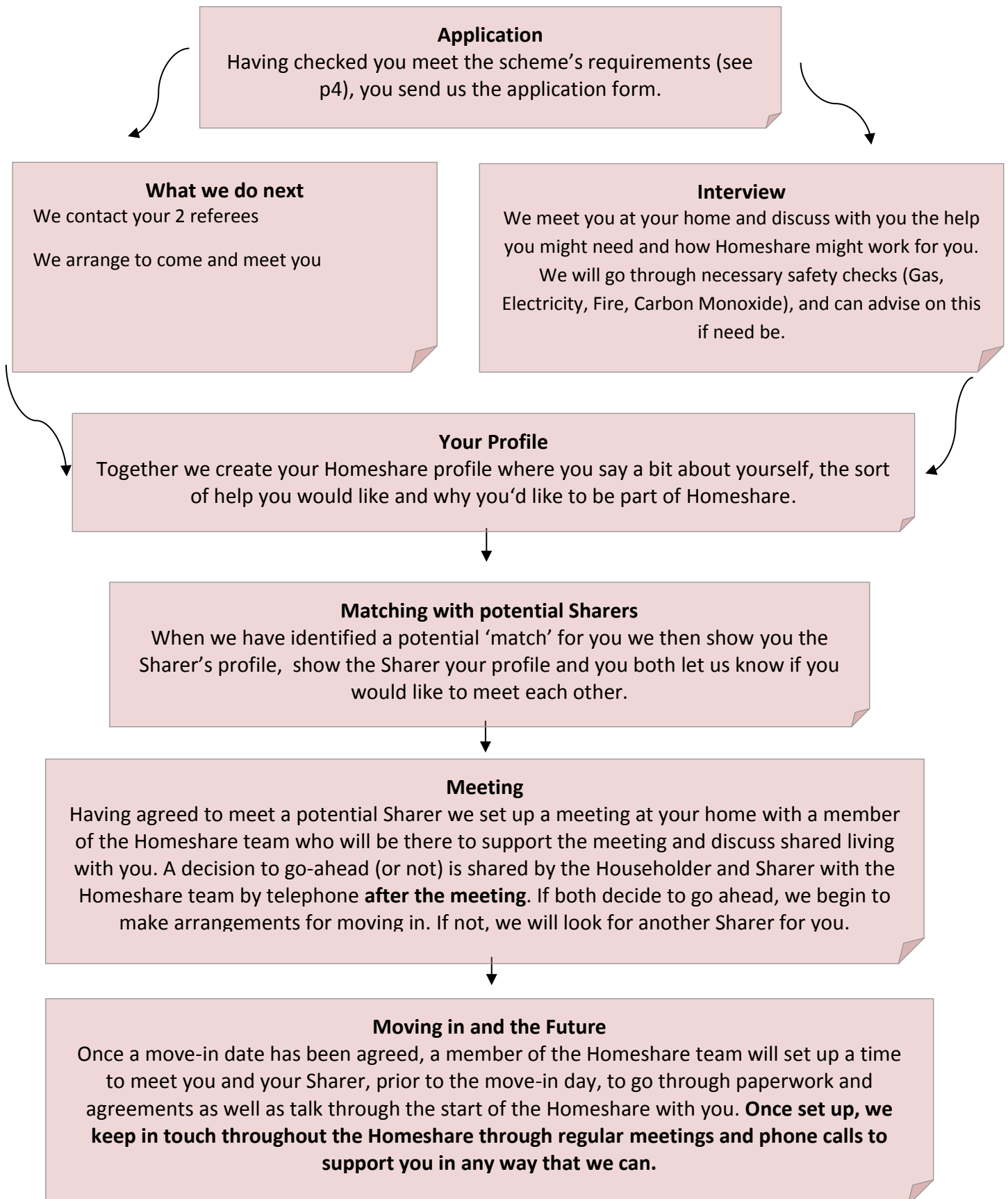
Monthly fees are payable to Homeshare Oxford by Householder and Sharer. The Householder pays £100 per month which works out at just over £3 per day. The Sharer pays £200 per month to Homeshare. These fees pay for arranging the match and the regular ongoing support provided by the Homeshare team and enable the scheme to be sustainable.

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

Making an application to Homeshare Oxford

Please read the Checklist on page 3 and then contact us if you would like us to send you an application form. For more information or details on how to apply, please see page 5.

The set-up stages for Householders



Checklist for Householders

Before you make an application to become a Householder it's important to be sure that Homeshare is right for you and that you are right for Homeshare. Please check the following criteria:

- You would enjoy living with someone of a different generation and are happy to welcome them into your home.
- You are friendly and considerate and are happy to share living space (e.g. kitchen, living room, bathroom) with another person.
- You would benefit from have up to 10 hours a week of time as help around the home and companionship, and maybe the reassurance of an overnight presence.
- You appreciate a clean and tidy home.
- You would respect the Sharer's personal space and possessions.
- Your spare room meets minimum legal size of 6.5 meters² / 70 feet²
- You would be willing to keep to living arrangements as agreed with the Sharer (and set up with the support of the Homeshare Oxford team) and work through any issues, should they arise, to find solutions, with support as needed from Homeshare Oxford.
- You agree to a minimum period for the Homeshare of six months (although Homeshare arrangements are usually of a longer duration).

You agree to (Homeshare Oxford can help with these):

- Provide contact details for 2 referees.
- Provide gas safety certificates and a home safety check.
- Have working smoke alarms on every floor of your house, and a carbon monoxide alarm where you have a fire or boiler burning solid fuel or gas.
- Tell us about any spent or unspent criminal convictions– they may not automatically exclude you, but we need to know about them.

This is what we ask of Sharers you may be matched with:

The Sharer:

- Would enjoy living with someone else, most likely of a different generation.
- Is kind, friendly and considerate and is happy to share living space (e.g. kitchen, living room, bathroom) with another person.
- Agrees to stay a minimum of six months with a Householder, though a Homeshare is usually of a longer duration.
- Provides up to 10 hours of their time each week as help around the home and companionship.
- Keeps living spaces and their room clean and tidy.
- Respects the Householder's home, personal space and possessions.
- Is willing to keep to living arrangements as agreed with the Householder (and set up with the support of Homeshare Oxford team)
- Will work through any issues, should they arise, to find solutions, with support as needed from the Homeshare Oxford team.
- Provides contact details for 3 referees
- Tells us about any spent or unspent criminal convictions – they may not automatically exclude a Sharer, but we need to know about them.
- Agrees to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.
- Shows evidence of their financial situation.
- Demonstrates that they have the 'right to rent' in the UK as Homeshare Oxford needs to ensure that we meet the legislation.

Other Information

Safeguarding, Confidentiality and Equality & Diversity

Homeshare Oxford is part of Age UK Oxfordshire (AUKO) and adheres to AUKO policies and procedures which ensures that the scheme is run in a safe and supported way. Both Householders and Sharers are advised of our Confidentiality and Equality & Diversity policies and Safeguarding procedures and are asked to follow these. All Sharers have a completed enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check.

Home insurance - is this affected?

You will need to tell your home insurance provider if you decide to take part in a Homeshare. We advise Sharers to have their own insurance cover for personal possessions.

Can Householders be couples?

Couples are welcome to apply to Homeshare. A Homeshare arrangement can often be reassuring and valuable, particularly if one person is a carer for the other.

Householders with Dementia or other long term conditions

For Householders living with dementia or another long term condition, please do contact us so we can discuss with you and/or a friend or family if, and how, Homeshare might work for you.

Making an application to Homeshare Oxford

We hope you now have enough information to decide whether you would like to apply to Homeshare Oxford. **Please let us know if you would like us to send you an application form.** If you would like any further information or would like to arrange a phone conversation, please do get in touch.

Telephone: 01865 410 670

Email: homeshare@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

Webpage: www.homeshareoxford.org.uk

Useful contact details

Age UK Oxfordshire Helpline:

Phone: 0345 450 1276 Email: helpline@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

Carers Oxfordshire:

Phone: 0845 0507 666 Email: carersoxfordshire@oxfordshire.gov.uk