

## Applying as a Sharer to Homeshare Oxford

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

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 pay for arranging the match and the regular ongoing support provided by the Homeshare team to the Homeshare arrangement and enable Homeshare Oxford to be run as a sustainable scheme.

The Sharer pays £200 per month. The Householder pays £100 per month. 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 2 and then contact us if you would like us to send you an application form.**

**Email:** [homeshare@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:homeshare@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk)

**Webpage:** [www.homeshareoxford.org.uk](http://www.homeshareoxford.org.uk)

## Checklist for Sharers

**Before making an application to become a Sharer it is 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 else, most likely of a different generation to you.
- You are kind, friendly and considerate and are happy to share living space (e.g. kitchen, living room, and bathroom) with another person.
- You agree to stay a minimum of six months with a Householder, though a Homeshare is usually of a longer duration.
- You are willing to provide up to 10 hours of your time each week as help around the home and companionship.
- You will keep living spaces and your room clean and tidy.
- You will respect the Householder's home, personal space and possessions.
- You will keep to living arrangements as agreed with the Householder (and set up with the support of Homeshare Oxford).
- You agree to work through any issues, should they arise, to find solutions, with support, as needed, from the Homeshare Oxford team.

### **You agree to:**

- Provide contact details for three referees .
- Tell us about any spent or unspent criminal convictions – they may not automatically exclude you, but we need to know about them.
- An enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.
- Show us evidence of your financial situation (e.g. bank statement, pay slip, student funding letter etc.)
- Demonstrate that you have the 'right to rent' in the UK as Homeshare Oxford needs to ensure that we meet that legislation. We will advise you about appropriate documents (eg passport, driving license, residence permit, birth certificate) to meet this requirement.

## **This is what we ask of Householders you may be matched with:**

- 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 up to 10 hours a week of time as help around the home and companionship, and possibly the reassurance of overnight presence in the home
- 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 meters<sup>2</sup> / 70 feet<sup>2</sup>
- You are 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.

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

- Provide contact details for 2 referees.
- Obtain and show us gas and electrical safety certificates.
- 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.