

An introduction to THE HomeShare



Homesharing enables two unrelated people to share a home for mutual benefit. THE HomeShare is Ireland's only Homeshare programme who provide a face to face, personal service by a team with a professional background working in the Healthcare and Homecare sectors spanning over 30 years. We are also Ireland's only not for profit Homeshare programme.

- Householders are people who have a home that they are willing to share but are in need of some help, support and company.
- Typically, an older householder with a room to spare will be carefully matched with an accommodation seeker who will provide an agreed amount of support (10 hours per week), plus an overnight presence in case of emergencies and for peace of mind in exchange for their accommodation.

- The support provided by the Homesharer might include help with daily living tasks such as; household chores, shopping, gardening, meal preparation, dog walking, overnight security and companionship.

Homeshare is a simple concept with numerous and wide-ranging benefits for all participants. It has potential to be an effective and sustainable response to two key social challenges we have in society:

- Affordable support for our ageing population to remain in their own homes for longer.
- Affordable accommodation for people at a time of record housing shortages and high rent.

How Homesharing works

Process

- After a referral from a Householder is made to us, we arrange a face to face consultation either in hospital or in the person's home to establish what existing support they may have and how this can be complimented to ensure the person's peace of mind, companionship and security to remain living at home.
- THE HomeShare identifies one (or more) suitable Homesharer who is carefully vetted (including Garda vetting) and a Sharer is then introduced personally by THE HomeShare Coordinator to the Householder and advocate (family member or medical professional) A Homeshare Agreement is discussed and finalised with all parties to ensure each individual's needs and supports are addressed.
- Once both parties are happy to proceed to the next stage in the process (a 2 week Trial Period), a Placement Fee of €350 is payable to THE HomeShare
- A moving in date is agreed to begin the 2 week Trial Period. THE HomeShare Co-Ordinator is available to be present when the Sharer moves in and THE HomeShare Coordinator keeps in regular contact with all parties during this period.



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- At the end of the Trial Period, a further face to face meeting is arranged and all parties go through the Homeshare Agreement once again, ensuring they are in agreement to continue with the arrangement and detail any amendments if necessary.
- Assuming the Sharer and Householder continue to live together, there is an ongoing Monthly Support Fee of €195 payable by both parties. This Support Fee ensures the continued support and monitoring by THE HomeShare to ensure the arrangement continues to be beneficial to all parties. This support is crucial to ensure safeguarding and that no one is being taken advantage of. We ring every month and arrange a face to face meeting every month, as well as being available to solve any issues that might arise. This support is 24/7/365
- The relationship is a reciprocal arrangement – both the Homesharer and the Householder have something they need and something they can give to the Homeshare relationship. Creating a ‘good match’ that supports a mutually agreeable sociable living arrangement is a key priority for THE HomeShare.
- Homesharers are not charged market rate rent but agree to contribute fairly to household utility bills.
- The Homeshare arrangement between the two parties is governed by a carefully worded agreement (Homeshare Agreement) that avoids creating a contract of employment or tenancy agreement.
- There are no elements of personal care provided by the Homesharer to the Householder.

Benefits

Some of the many benefits include:

1. Decrease in Loneliness
2. Improvement in mental and physical health (decrease risk of falls)
3. Timely hospital discharge
4. Improvement in diet and nutrition

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5. Security at night and peace of mind for the Householder and their family
6. People remain living in their own homes and communities
7. Forging Intergenerational relationships so people can learn from each other
8. Affordable accommodation

What Homeshare is not

Even though Homeshare is a very simple concept it can often get mistaken for other kinds of services and arrangements such as:

- live-in care
- live-in housekeeper
- simple lodger arrangements

Prudent matching of both groups gives the householder the help and security they require and the Homesharer the home they seek, both at a reasonable cost.

Householders must have a home or property that they own or rent and which is suitable to accommodate another person. The arrangement lasts as long as it is working for both parties. The average length of a Homeshare arrangement is 14 months.

Costs Involved

Placement Fee : €350 (once off, no matter the number of placements)

Monthly Support Fee: €195

THE HomeShare are the proud hosts of

7th World Homeshare Congress
DUBLIN, IRELAND
25-27th May 2022

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