

## An introduction to THE HomeShare



THE HomeShare, Ireland's only not for profit Social Enterprise and multi award winner, is a simple concept with numerous and wide-ranging benefits for all participants. It is 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 and delay the premature transition into long term or assisted care facilities.

- **Affordable accommodation** for people at a time of record housing shortages and high rent.

Homesharing enables two unrelated people to share a home for mutual benefit. THE HomeShare provide a face to face, personal service by a team with a professional background working in the Healthcare and Homecare sectors spanning over 80 years.

- Householders are people who have a home that they are willing to share but are in need of some company, a helping hand around the home and an overnight presence.
- Homesharers (accommodation seekers) are people who are willing to offer some company and practical support in exchange for low-cost accommodation.
- Typically, an older householder with a room to spare will be carefully matched with a homesharer 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 may include help with daily living tasks such as household chores, shopping, gardening, meal preparation, dog walking, overnight security, and companionship.
- Homesharers commit to spending 6 out of 7 nights per week in the home – Sharers are permitted one night per week as well as one or two weekends per month away from the home to allow for socialising.
- 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 value rent but agree to contribute fairly to household utility bills.
  - Typically, the sharer will contribute €15 per week, OR, €65 per month toward utilities.



- The Homeshare arrangement between the two parties is governed by a carefully worded, bespoke Licence 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.

## How Homesharing works

### THE HomeShare Process

- After a referral from a Householder/family/advocate is made to us, we arrange a face-to-face assessment (free of charge) 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.
  - If after consultation, the Householder/family would like THE HomeShare to begin searching for a homeshare companion (Sharer), a 25% down payment of the placement fee is due before the search begins.
- THE HomeShare identifies one (or more) suitable Homesharers and 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 everyone's needs and supports are addressed. **The Sharers are carefully vetted (including Garda vetting. We are Ireland's only Homeshare programme who carries out Garda Vetting).**
  - If after two introductions, the Householder/family wish to continue the search for additional homeshare candidates, a further 25% down payment of the placement fee is due.
- Once both parties are happy to proceed to the next stage in the process (a 2-week Trial Period), the remainder of the Placement Fee is payable to THE HomeShare.
- A move-in date is agreed to begin the 2-week Trial Period. THE HomeShare Coordinator keeps in regular contact with all parties during this period. The team are also available 24/7 on the phone in case of emergency.
- At the end of the Trial Period, a decision is made by the Householder and Homeshare if they wish to continue living together.
- Assuming the Sharer and Householder continue to live together, there is an ongoing Monthly Support Fee of €240 (inclusive of VAT) payable by both parties to THE HomeShare, beginning at the end of the Trial Period. This Support Fee ensures the continued support and monitoring by THE HomeShare to oversee that the arrangement continues to be beneficial to all parties. This support is crucial to ensure safeguarding. We call every month and arrange a face-to-face meeting each month, as well as being available on the phone 24/7/365 to help resolve any issues that might arise.



## The Benefits of Homesharing

- ✓ Decrease in Loneliness
- ✓ Improvement in mental and physical health including a decreased risk of falls, and improvement in diet and nutrition.
- ✓ Timely hospital discharge and avoidance of premature long-term care
- ✓ Security at night and peace of mind for the Householder and their family
- ✓ People remain living in their own homes and communities.
- ✓ Forging Intergenerational relationships so people can learn from each other.
- ✓ 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. The arrangement lasts as long as it is working for both parties.

## Costs Involved

- **Placement Fee:** €430 (inclusive of VAT)

### Householder:

25% down payment due after initial consultation/ when choosing to move forward and the remaining 75% when the sharer moves in to begin the 2-week trial period\*\*

*\*\*If after two introductions, the Householder/family wish to continue the search for additional homeshare candidates, a further 25% down payment of the placement fee is due.*

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### Homesharer:

Once off €430 placement fee is due on or before the day your homeshare trial begins.

The Homesharer agrees, that in the event of an agreed HomeShare match not moving forward after THE HomeShare Terms of Business has been received, at the request of the Homesharer, the Introducer (THE HomeShare) shall submit an invoice to the Homesharer (the party reneging on the agreement) for half the placement fee (€215) which is payable on the date the trial was due to commence.

- **Monthly Support Fee:** €240 (inclusive of VAT)
- **Contribution toward Utilities:** Our Homesharers may be asked to contribute typically €15 p/w OR €65 p/m.

## Testimonials

*“We have had a really good experience with The Homeshare and cannot recommend them enough. So professional and so kind, a pleasure to deal with at every step. The care they took in finding the right person for my dad means he has a wonderful roommate and is living really happily at home; it has been a life-changer for us.”* Sylvia, Daughter.

*“A fantastic solution to so many people. All the team in Home Share are amazing, caring, diligent, professional, and supportive. I cannot recommend enough.”* Deirdre, Sharer.

*“From the first contact with The HomeShare company they have been very professional, reassuring, and available to answer any of my queries. Lucie and her staff provide an excellent service in an area that provides families with the option to keep their loved ones at home. That extra presence in the house provides a comfort to the family especially at night. We have been very lucky with the person our Dad has been matched with. The companion time and chats have really helped our Dad feel less lonely especially coming out of these Covid times. I would highly recommend any family to look into this option.”* Derville, Daughter.

My sisters and I and the rest of our family and friends included are so pleased and relieved that our 94-year-old father continues to enjoy an active and fulfilled life in his own home thanks to Lucie and her company choosing, organizing and overseeing sharers for him over several years. I highly recommend this organisation.  
Sine, Daughter