

SharedLivesPlus

THE UK NETWORK FOR SHARED LIVES AND HOMESHARE



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Alex Fox, OBE, CEO Shared Lives Plus

Over recent decades, links between the generations have progressively weakened, as extended families have continued to live more distantly, and people of different ages spend less time in shared spaces or involved in shared activities. Well-publicised initiatives, such as the co-located nursery and care home model from the Netherlands have shown the value of intergenerational contact but remain the exception. That housing is not built with later life in general, let alone intergenerational living, in mind, suggests that it will take decades more to knit the generations back together again.

Homeshare is an approach we can expand now, using existing houses, and at little cost to the state. Homeshare works. It has a decades-long track record in the UK and is now much more extensive in several countries. It works because it sees that two groups of people often thought of in terms of their problems, also have much to offer: not just a spare room and the ability to help out, but, crucially, companionship, which young people can lack just as much as older people.

We have seen Homeshare working on a small scale for many years, but now it's time for Homeshare to be offered on a large scale. This report shows that the sector is finally growing after years of stagnation, following strategic investment from The Big Lottery Foundation and the Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales. It has also begun to capture people's imagination: a short BBC film was watched 25 million times this year and 'liked' by hundreds of thousands of people.

We know what is needed to grow Homeshare: a little red-tape cutting at national level, some enthusiasm from local leaders and a great deal of awareness-raising. The pieces are in place for Homeshare to become a solution to problems of housing, support and loneliness which we can make a reality now, for thousands of younger and older people.

“It’s a challenge living with someone again after all these years – but it works perfectly with a bit of give and take.”

Householder, Oxford



Our calls to action

- We are asking local areas to become 'Homeshare friendly'. This means identifying one or more of the locally-available Homeshare schemes as a partner, raising awareness of Homeshare with their staff and partners and providing start-up investment where needed to get Homeshare to a scale where it can sustain itself on participant fees.
- We are calling for national and local action to make Homeshare affordable for people on low incomes to fund some participants, and through national government, address identified barriers in benefits regulations. We are asking government to work with us to clarify some unclear rules and to issue clearer national guidance on the use of existing local discretionary powers.
- We are committed to working with Homeshare schemes and their partners to make Homeshare available to wider groups of people and communities. We are exploring partnerships with other national organisations to do this.
- We would like to see Homeshare schemes developed in areas currently not well serviced particularly Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the North East and South East of England. We are seeking backing and resources to achieve our goal of a Homeshare scheme in every key UK city.
- Local areas should become 'asset-based' in everything they do, adopting a range of approaches which connect and empower people, and learning to recognise and build upon people's capacity and assets, rather than only being able to see their needs and challenges. Councils, the NHS and the charity sector should consider risk from the point of view of the people they purport to serve, recognising older people's concerns about loneliness and that many older people have the capacity to and desire to address their own challenges where they can do so with support.

What is Homeshare?

Homeshare brings people together for mutual benefit. Typically, this is a person who feels they would benefit from low-level support (the householder) with a person who needs affordable accommodation (the homesharer). The householder is usually a homeowner or tenant who has a comfortable room to spare. The homesharer provides around 10 hours of practical support and companionship each week in exchange for low-cost accommodation.

The Homeshare relationship is based on trust and friendship, allowing people to live well within their chosen communities.

People from different backgrounds, ethnicities and professions take part in Homeshare. It is based on people helping each other to live better lives and creating better communities.

Homeshare UK is part of a global movement with programmes operating across 17 countries including; Spain, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Australia, Canada and USA.

Executive summary

There has been a 42% increase in the number of people Homesharing across the UK and Republic of Ireland in the past 12 months, since April 2017 to March 2018. Year on year we are seeing a steady rise in the number of Homeshare matches.

There has been a 16% increase in the average length of a Homeshare match, since April 2017.

Six schemes report being financially sustainable, 11 are currently operating with subsidies from either private or grant funded sources and only three schemes report being wholly reliant on grant funding.

A new report from Social Finance has identified key tangible outcomes created by Homeshare which include:

- the householder being able to continue living in own home for longer
- Reduction in loneliness
- Providing affordable accommodation

We've enjoyed increased media interest thanks to a combination of circumstances: the release of the Mixing Matters report, a BBC Politics video of a Homeshare in London that has been viewed over 25 million times, and the growing public awareness of loneliness, including the appointment of a 'Minister for Loneliness', launched Homeshare into public consciousness and a sustained level of media

enquiries about Homeshare. Coverage included: 'Coverage included:

BBC Radio Berkshire, Radio 4 Today, CBC Network, Guardian G2, Daily Mail, The Sun, Yahoo, Daily Mail x 2, The Times, Al Jazeera Arabic, Radio 5 Live, Age UK Radio, Sunday Times, and Guardian weekend magazine and a teaser film for a BBC TV daytime series which is at an early stage. These media enquiries not only pierced public awareness, they also provided a mechanism for partnerships and closer working within the network and interested high profile supporters, people who wanted to start new schemes, tripled the number of enquiries to take part in Homeshare and several potential funders approached us to see how they could support us in the future.

There is increased interest from local authorities who recognise that Homeshare can support people with lower level support needs who are not ordinarily eligible for funded social care support, that it provides an affordable alternative to social housing and aligns with the prevention agenda.

We are actively working with several local authorities to explore ways they can support the existing network through building referral pipelines and through development and or commissions of Homeshare in the area.

There is a lasting learning legacy documented by SCIE from the Homeshare Partner Programme which was funded by Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and

All our network members are committed to self-assessing against the Homeshare UK quality assurance framework and work within our good practice guide. Five schemes are now able to fully demonstrate that they meet the criteria.

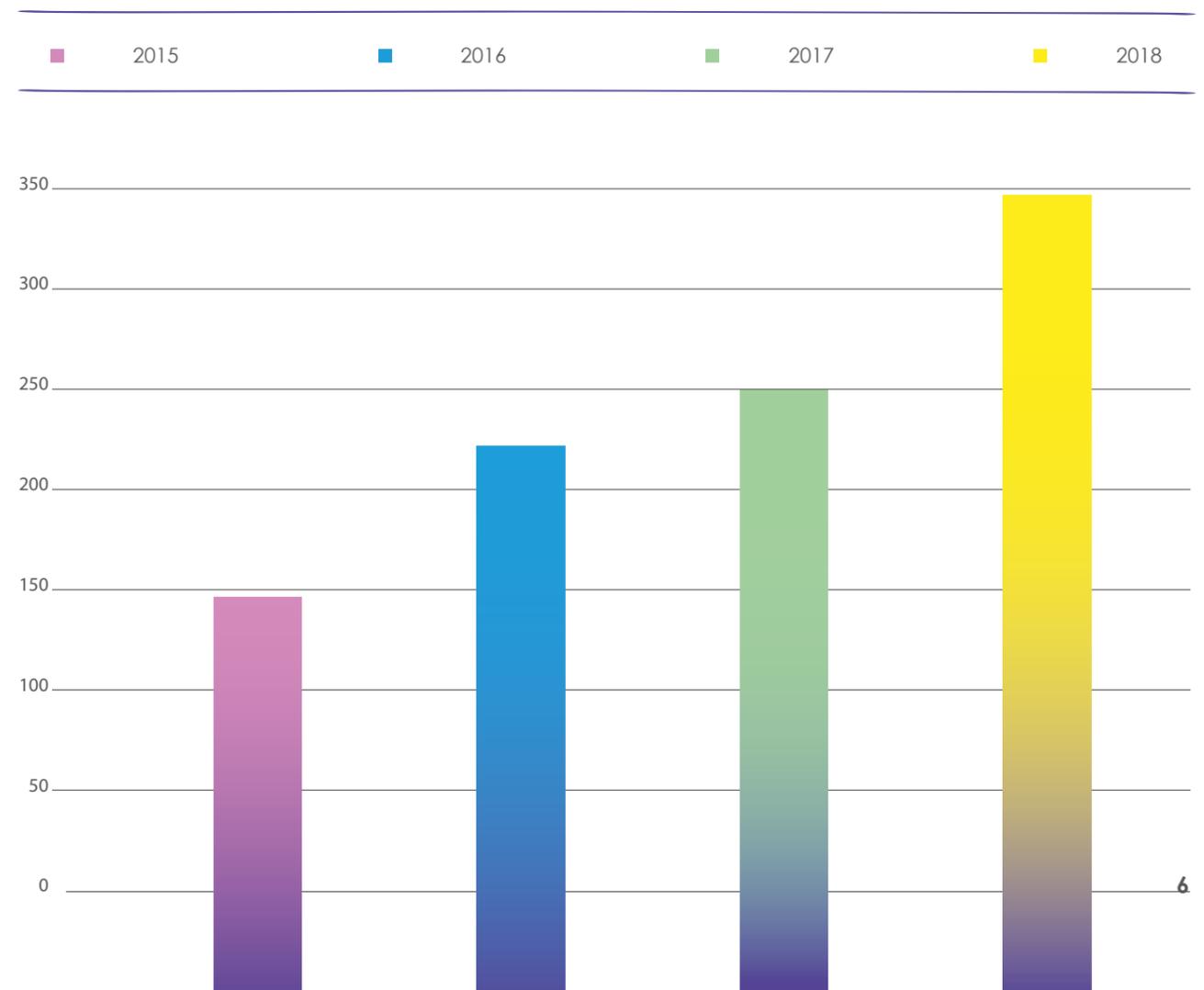
Demand for support from developing schemes remains high and we have supported the launch of four new schemes in the past 12 months and continue to support 7 other potential key developments.

The Homeshare UK network members regularly come together to share good practice and provide peer support.

Homeshare UK has expanded its range of services and work through our strategic support and advice services which have been commissioned by The Department for Communities in Northern Ireland and several local authorities in England.

Shared Lives Plus are continuing to support further development and expansion of Homeshare in the UK and Republic of Ireland, drive up the standards of delivery and support our network members to deliver safe and effective Homeshare provision.

Number of HomeShare matches





Our successes, challenges and priorities for Homeshare

Key successes for Homeshare

- There has been increased interest in Homeshare amongst local authorities who are beginning to recognise that this flexible model can achieve a range of local outcomes along with key national strategic aims including; supporting older people to remain in their own homes for longer, supporting wider choice in social care options and supporting community-based support.
- We have a growing qualitative evidence base for Homeshare about its impact and the potential outcomes including impacts on health and wellbeing, reducing isolation and loneliness for both Householder and Homesharers and helping build resilience in communities.'
- The learning evidence from the evaluation of the Homeshare Partner Programme gives us a firm foundation from which to grow, refine practice and process and support sustainable development of Homeshare.
- The Homeshare model is increasingly being recognised as a preventive approach that meets the needs of people with low level support needs.
- Schemes are expanding and/or developing their services in direct response to need amongst specific target groups including; people living with HIV, older males, refugees, people with disabilities.
- Six schemes now report to be financially sustainable.



Key challenges for Homeshare

- Homeshare still only attracts people who can 'self-fund'. Restrictions imposed by mainstream legislation and policy notably in relation to social housing, benefits and council tax continue to impact on wider take-up of the service and limit the breadth of potential outcomes achievable.
- There are still large areas of the UK and Republic of Ireland not well serviced by Homeshare particularly Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the North East and South East.
- There is still a lack of formalised referral routes from health and social care professionals to Homeshare providers.
- The escalating needs of older householders may mean they need more support than can be offered through a homesharing arrangement
- Homeshare is still relatively unknown amongst key potential supporters including; health and social care professionals, local authority front line staff and older people themselves.
- Safeguarding is still the key concern cited by potential referral agencies.

Priorities for Homeshare

- Homeshare providers need to engage local authority partners throughout the development of their project, to align their project with local demographic needs and to allay concerns with statutory partners, to lay the foundation for establishment of routes of referral.
- We need to expand into areas not well serviced by Homeshare through local authorities forming working partnerships with existing Homeshare schemes, supporting or taking a lead role in the development or expansion of schemes.
- We should establish schemes to develop and measure tangible outcomes to support the development of a national outcomes evidence base.

"It's just really reassuring knowing that someone is looking out for mum"

Daughter of a householder, London

The Homeshare model

Homeshare matches someone who needs some help to live independently in their own home (householder) with someone who has a housing need (homesharer). In return for low cost accommodation the homesharer provides a minimum of 10 hours of support per week to the householder.

Householders are often older people or people who need support to continue to live in their own homes. They will have some support needs or may have become isolated or anxious about living alone. The idea is that with reassurance and companionship householders will continue to live full, happy and healthy

lives. Householders will also be able to pass on their skills and experience to enrich the lives of those that share with them.

Homesharers are often younger people, students, or key public service workers who cannot afford housing where they work. They are happy to give their time to support the needs of older people.

Homesharing benefits and enriches the lives of both the householder and the homesharer. It is not just about providing support but is also a great way to widen your horizons, learn new skills and meet new people.

The support provided through Homeshare can help the householder live independently in their own home for longer. The type of support offered is agreed between the householder and homesharer. It can include activities like: cooking, shopping, cleaning, help with household administration, walking the dog and companionship.

The Homeshare model is simple but has numerous and wide-ranging benefits for participants. We are beginning to build an evidence base that clearly demonstrates its ability to significantly impact on several key policy challenges.

"This is a common-sense approach that tackles two problems at once in a creative way. Loneliness is a hidden problem in our communities, and as well as providing more homes, this scheme will provide companionship and bring different generations together." **Paul Ellis, Wandsworth Council, Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Health**

Impacts on several key policy challenges include:

- Tackling loneliness
- Helping and aging populations stay independent in their own homes for longer
- Providing affordable accommodation for young people, students and low paid workers

We know Homeshare is beginning to impact directly on:

- Supporting early discharge from hospital
- Making use of under occupied housing stock
- Supporting a sociable and sustainable asset-based living model
- Giving family members peace of mind and respite
- Supporting the development of stronger more resilient communities

Work with Social Finance has helped us to start identifying potential generic outcomes for Homeshare including:

Metric	Outcome Hypothesis	Impact on:			
		Individual (HO, HS, or Family)	Health Service	Social Care	Benefits
Companionship	Reduction in loneliness and associated outcomes (physical and mental health, remaining independent, reduced GP visits for non-medical reasons.)	✓	✓		
Overnight presence	Reduction in sleep-in carer demand.	✓		✓	
Crisis prevention	Daily contact and support with basic needs (e.g. keeping hydrated and fed, prompts to take medication) may reduce urinary tract infections, falls and other crisis situations.	✓	✓		
Falls risk	Support with day to day tasks may reduce likelihood of falls and consequently reduce likelihood of hospital admission	✓	✓		
Dementia	Remaining in the familiar home environment can be highly beneficial for people with dementia and relieve pressure on care home bed availability. Increased mental stimulation from interactions with homesharers may also slow down dementia progression.	✓		✓	
Carer support	Support for unpaid carers to provide peace of mind, alleviate stress and/or enable them to return to work / work full time.	✓	✓		✓
Death in preferred location	63% of people express a preference to die at home. Homesharers may help to facilitate that wish (alongside cheaper domiciliary end of life care compared with dying in hospital)	✓	✓	✓	
Quality of life and contribution to community	Enables the homeowner to give something back by offering affordable accommodation and in many cases, valuable life experience and new skills to others. The new relationship may also lead to new hobbies and interests as they are more able to get out and about.	✓			

Stories behind the statistics

Andy and George's story PossAbilities Homeshare

Andy, 68, had lived alone for more than 14 years before his homesharer, George, moved in. Andy had travelled the world for work in the army as an overhead lines transmission and distribution engineer and after living the life he loved, he realised that he was more socially isolated than ever and found himself feeling lonely daily and, in his words, "sat in front of the box all day".

He was recommended to PossAbilities Homeshare by a mutual contact and they worked to find George, who was based in Romania and looking for accommodation in Heywood. After he was cleared by PossAbilities Homeshare through DBS and application forms, he and Andy had a Skype chat and agreed to give it a go.

Under the Homeshare agreement, George spends 10 hours a week with Andy and sleeps at home at least five nights a week to give Andy peace of mind that somebody is in the house with him overnight.

George pays Andy just £9 a week plus £150 a month to Homeshare, making it a much cheaper option than private rental.

"My colleagues at Argos are jealous at how little I pay", he says. Not only that but George and Andy have provided companionship for each other, with George being in a new country. They enjoy watching MASH together, going bowling and having 'banter' together. There is one thing they don't enjoy - each other's cooking! They don't mind though, as they still spend time sitting down and eating together while Andy teaches George more English - or at least Lancastrian!



PossAbilities Homeshare
www.possabilities.org.uk/wp/homeshare



Key statistics

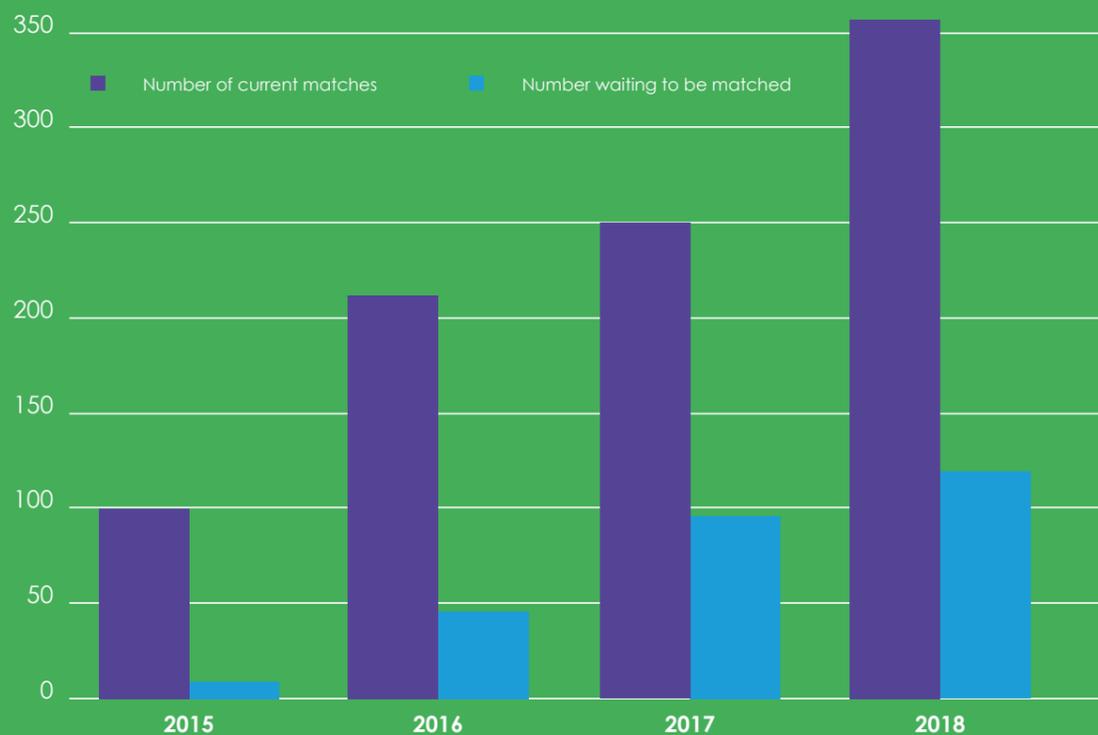
There are currently 357 Homeshare matches across the UK and Republic of Ireland, an increase of 42% from last year.

Whilst numbers remain low in comparison to other countries, Homeshare is beginning to gather momentum, as the increase in the number of participants year on year demonstrates.

The numbers of householders waiting to be matched with suitable homesharers remains static at 119.

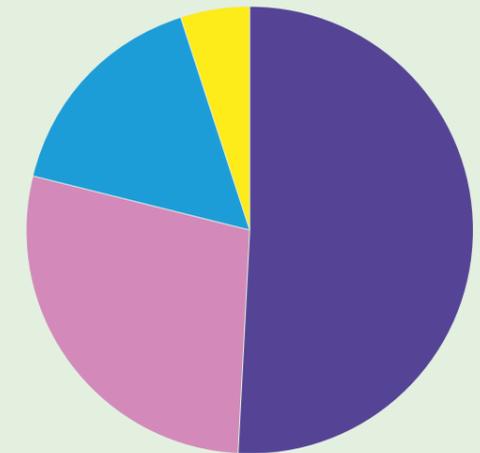
Growing numbers of people want to Homeshare

"It's given me a new perspective on life and even though I hate to admit it I do need a bit of extra help round the house – I'm not getting any younger!" **Householder, London**



Demographics of Homeshare participants

Make up of Homesharers 2017/18:



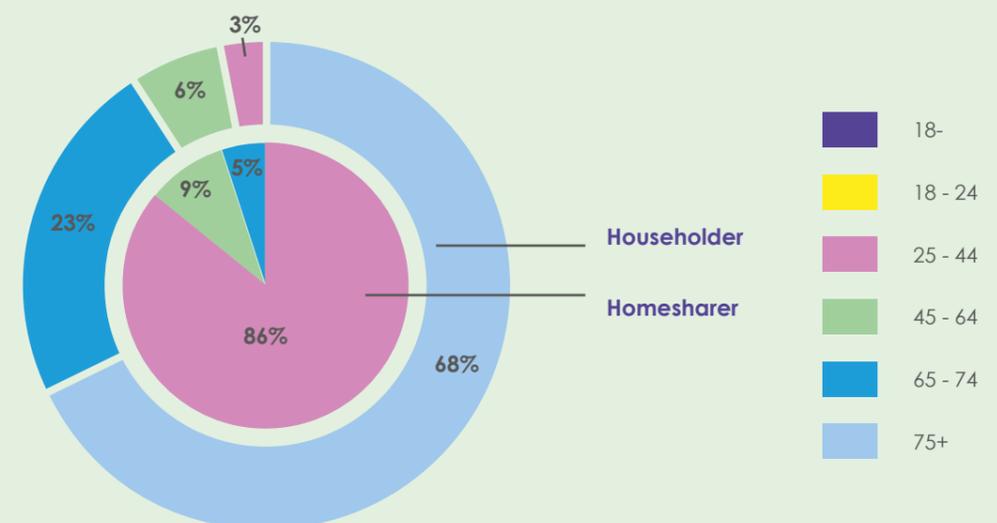
Householders are predominantly single older people. The number of people using Homeshare with a diagnosis of dementia has risen from 21% in 2016/17 to 37% in 2017/18

Homesharers are predominantly young professionals with students, public sector worker and younger older people making up the other key groups of sharers.

■ Young professionals ■ Students ■ Public sector workers ■ Younger older people

Householders are typically over 75 years old although there are increased numbers aged between 65 and 74 whilst homesharers are usually aged between 25 and 44.

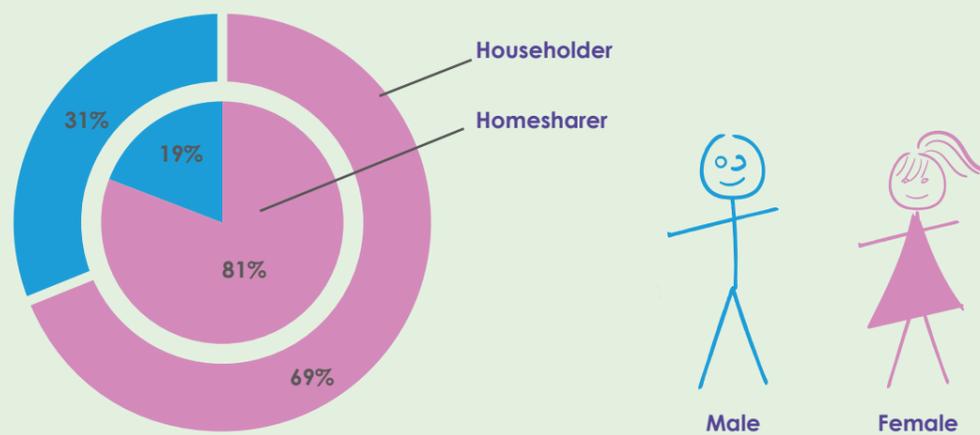
Age of Homeshare participants 2017/18:



Gender and ethnicity of Homeshare participants:

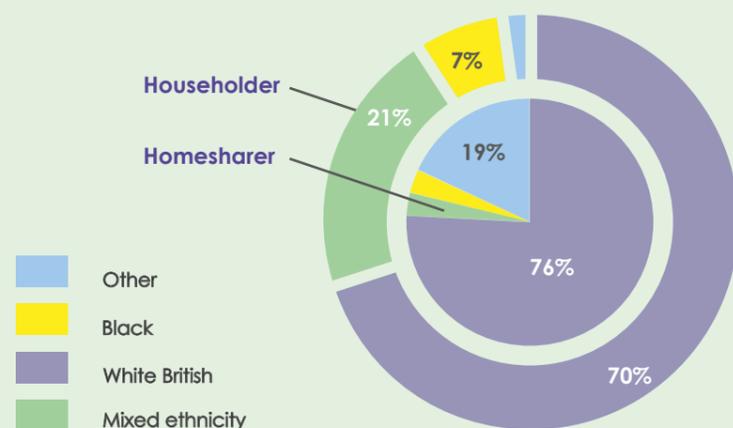
Householders and homesharers are predominantly female (69% and 81% respectively) although the number of male householders has increased by 6% over the past 12 months.

Gender Homeshare participants 2017/18:



There has been little change in the ethnicity of participants using Homeshare although not all schemes collected equality and diversity information. 70% of householders and 76% of homesharers reported as White British. 21% and 3% reported as mixed ethnicity, 7% and 3% reported as Black.

Gender Homeshare participants 2017/18:



How long do Homeshare matches last?

The longest reported match is seven years however the average match duration is now 14 months compared to 12 months in our last survey.

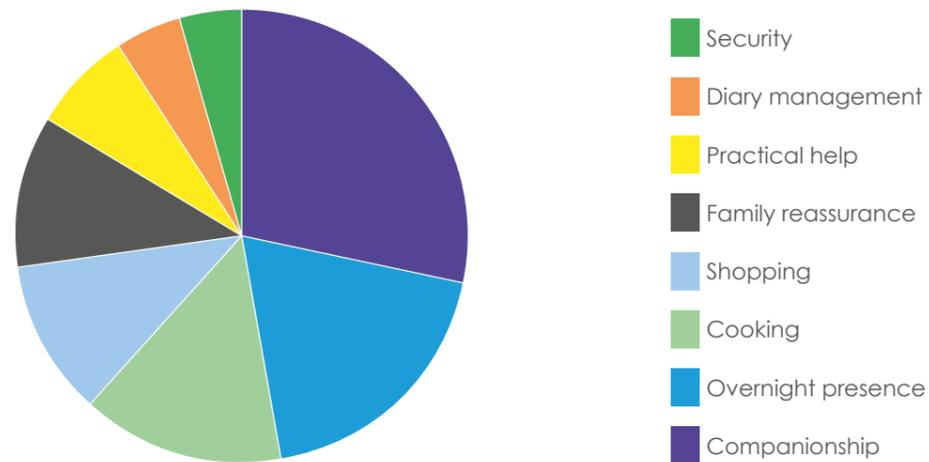
22 homeowners and nine homesharers whose matches ended, went on to be re-matched with a new homesharer.

A total of 68 Homeshare matches ended in the reporting period. Over half of these matches ended with the Homeshare running its course and meeting a natural end. A quarter of the matches ended because the householder died. Other recorded reasons for matches ending included; householder went into residential care, Homeshare no longer met the needs of the householder and breakdown in relationship.

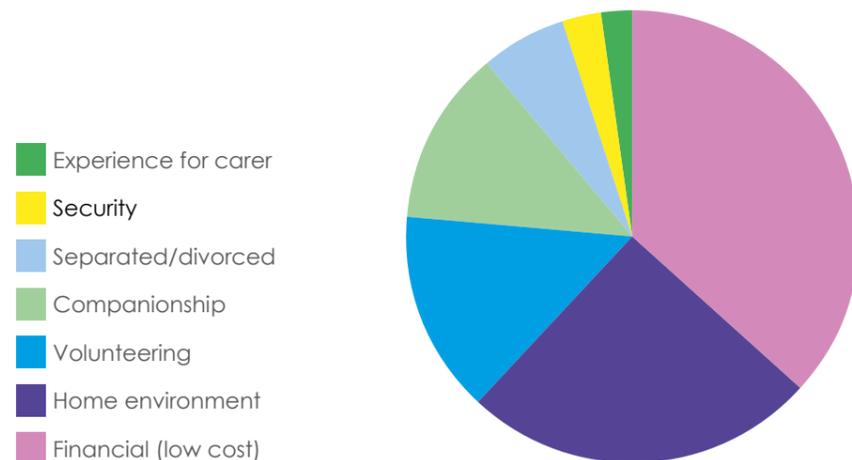
Why do people want to Homeshare?

The key motivators for people using Homeshare include; companionship, low cost comfortable accommodation and practical support around the home. Isolation and /or loneliness is cited by both householders and homesharers as being a key motivator for participation in Homeshare.

Householder motivations for using Homeshare 2017/18:



Homesharer motivations for using Homeshare 2017/18:



“When Lightshare submitted a male sharer for me I was a bit uncertain having been married to a woman for 64 years. But I decided to interview Simon (not his real name) and found him an interesting, straight forward chap with many common thoughts on current affairs despite him being half my age.”

“Simon has been here now for two months and things are working well. He cooks and serves lunch when at home and the evening meal. He performs household tasks and works in the garden. We often have interesting chats about the problems of the world.”

Householder, Lightshare



Schemes turned down 22 potential homesharers in the past 12 months. Key reasons included: temperament unsuitable to Homesharing, unrealistic expectations and inability to meet the costs.

31 householders were not able to participate in Homeshare, and the key reasons for this included: support needs were too great for a Homeshare relationship and unrealistic expectations.

“When Dad died two years ago, Mum found it difficult to cope. She just wasn't herself anymore. She wasn't really taking care of herself and she fixated on her health problems which only seemed to make them worse. I had a chat with her and she liked the idea of Homesharing. I sent in an application to Lightshare in January and within a few weeks Beth moved in. She matched all of Mum's requirements. They get on so well and I've seen a real change in mum. They go on outings together, share meals and even go to the same exercise class on weekends! I'm no longer worried about mum.”

Jane on behalf of Elizabeth, 86'

Eleanor, Homesharer, HomeShare Oxford



"I have been Homesharing with Wendy for over a year now, our friendship has developed, and a comfortable and flexible routine established. In the early days we were finding our feet; what began with a list of tasks that Wendy's daughter had helpfully composed, evolved and adapted as we began to know one another better and I became familiar with the house. I now automatically proceed with my 'routine' jobs – such as the weekly kitchen clean and some washing – and Wendy will suggest other things that she needs a hand with, for example sorting out the freezer. I have even become very practiced at setting up for Bridge! The highlight of our week is our companionship time, a walk outdoors, cup of tea in the garden (if we are lucky!), or our well-established get-together for 'film night'.

Earlier in the year Wendy spent two months in hospital recovering from a fall. During this time, we adjusted our

'sharing' to hospital visits and helpful tasks – for example taking clean washing into the hospital. This period was not without its challenges – for Wendy, her family, and myself – however I believe that living together for nearly a year before the change in circumstance had fortunately enabled us to develop an understanding of one another and a friendship that made it possible, and hopefully beneficial to continue the Homeshare when Wendy was at her most vulnerable. Since this time Wendy has been working hard with physiotherapists and carers to regain her strength and independence. It has been a privilege to be a part of this phase, seeing Wendy come back to us and find her spark and vitality again. Importantly we have also been able to resume our weekly Downton Abbey film night and try to recall what was happening when we left off!

Homeshare with Wendy has been a transformative decision for me. It has enhanced my ability to be independent and given me the opportunity to live in a city that I didn't envisage being able to afford to stay in after graduating. The whole family have welcomed me with such kindness and been more than accommodating as well as giving me plenty of space. I am quite a solitary individual, so I was apprehensive beforehand about maintaining my personal space and quietude. However, Wendy also has a need for independence and personal space, this is her family home of nearly 50 years after all! So, with sensitive and respectful learning and understanding of one another, we seem to have developed what I consider to be a genuine friendship. As I am only 25 years of age, Wendy has a great deal more experiences to share with me of her 80 odd years and I enjoy listening to her anecdotes as well as contemplating her reflections

on the present. I was nervous before the move, and I imagine Wendy was not without her own concerns too. She is a remarkable lady to whom I feel an immense gratitude for inviting me into her home, welcoming me into her family, and trusting me in her space. In return I hope that I am proactive, helpful, and compassionate – and enhance her life and home as she and her home have enhanced mine. I would recommend everyone to consider Homeshare as an alternative way of living; I believe it is an opportunity that really does have the potential to transform lives."



www.homeshareoxford.org.uk

Eleanor, Homesharer, HomeShare Oxford



“I had someone staying with me at night, but it was costing me a lot of money. When Lucie asked me if I would be interested, I thought there could be no losers in a Homeshare,”

Elizabeth, Householder, Dublin

Elizabeth and Anna, THE HomeShare, Republic of Ireland

Elizabeth (93), who lives in Dublin's northside, heard about THE HomeShare and put her name forward as a candidate to share her home with someone who could help with a few tasks and stay overnight in exchange for accommodation.

“I had someone staying with me at night, but it was costing me a lot of money. When Lucie asked me if I would be interested, I thought there could be no losers in a Homeshare,” says Elizabeth. “I have five daughters and I wouldn't like to see them having to look for accommodation at present, with the cost of rents. I think it's ridiculous what landlords are charging and there should be a cap on what they are allowed charge,” she says.

“Anna is very busy working and in college — she always has so much to do. I don't ask her to do a lot as I have carers as well. She gives me tea and toast in the morning and a drink of Ovaltine at night,” says Elizabeth.

“I like my own company and do a lot of reading and jigsaws, but I like conversation as well and we have little chats,” she adds. “Knowing someone is there at night is great. I am in good health, but my legs are a bit wobbly and you need someone there when you get to that stage.”

For Anna (22), a college student on a work placement close to Elizabeth's home, the arrangement which gives her a bedroom and her own sitting room, is ideal. “I had been living in Swords with my family and the landlord wanted to sell the house. I was thinking that I would have to take four buses a day to get to and from work when I saw THE HomeShare ad on a student group that I'm part of on Facebook,” she says.

“I thought it was too good to be true — I thought it was a scam. However, after I met Elizabeth and Lucie explained my duties, and I was Garda vetted, I moved in really quickly.

“The arrangement works very well for me. I explained that I work from 9am to 5pm and go to the gym five or six times a week and Elizabeth was absolutely fine with that. At the weekends, her daughters come over. We're in a WhatsApp group and I let them know if I can stay for some weekends,” Anna says.

She enjoys chatting with Elizabeth and hearing about her life.

While Anna is delighted to avoid a lengthy commute, and save money into the bargain, she warns that the arrangement is not for everyone. “If you are the type that likes to stay out late and go to the pub, it won't work. You have to be home at a reasonable time. Homesharing is suitable for students with a certain lifestyle,” she says.

“I rarely have anyone over as I feel it wouldn't be appropriate, although Elizabeth always tells me I can. I'd rather go into town to meet friends in a cafe,” says Anna.

“Elizabeth has been really good about doing whatever I have asked such as putting up a shower curtain and turning up the heating. She's really lovely.”



THE HomeShare
www.thehomeshare.ie

About Homeshare UK

The Homeshare Network - Homeshare UK is the UK and Republic of Ireland network for Homeshare and is part of Shared Lives Plus.

Our membership is open to organisations who facilitate or support Homeshare. As a member, you can expect:

- Support from the Homeshare UK team, which is included in the membership fee, subject to "fair usage"
- Access to network meetings and annual conference
- Access to the members-only forum to make it easy for members to contact and support each other and communicate with the Shared Lives Plus team and each other
- A document library containing free resources which is only available to members
- The opportunity to contribute to national reports and research

We welcome a range of new members to the Homeshare UK network. Current network members include; Homeshare schemes, organisations or individuals looking to develop Homeshare and wider stakeholders wanting to keep in touch with the Homeshare UK community.

Homeshare schemes span all sectors, and current network members include charities, social enterprises, local authorities and private sector companies.

We require schemes to be able to meet the Homeshare UK definition of Homeshare which specifies that:

- The Homeshare relationship is brokered, monitored and supported by a third-party organisation
- All participants and the property are vetted and assessed for their suitability
- A 'good match' is made that supports a mutually agreeable sociable living arrangement for the participants
- The match is based on a reciprocal relationship so both the homesharer and householder contribute and benefit from the Homeshare relationship
- That the homesharer provides an agreed amount of support to the householder whilst living in their home for an agreed period
- Homesharers are not charged market rate rent but agree to contribute fairly to household living costs
- The match is governed by an agreement that avoids a contract of employment or tenancy rights
- There are no elements of personal care provided by the homesharer to the householder



Strategic Support and Advice

The Homeshare UK team can provide strategic advice and support to organisations operating in the non-profit, public and private sector to support Homeshare start up and development.

Our services reflect the good practice outlined in the Homeshare Good Practice Guide and the National Quality Assurance Framework, both of which are maintained and updated with input from government and national partners.

Our expertise draws on our UK-wide membership of virtually every Homeshare programme in the country. We are the trusted partner of government and regulators, who draw on our materials in inspections. Our goal is to find great ways for many more people to share their homes and lives. We constantly develop and update a complete set of guidance, policies and national datasets which cover every aspect of delivering Homeshare safely and well. We also support council and NHS commissioners to develop their local provision and organisations who are considering developing Homeshare for the first time.

Through our paid-for services we can support your development with:

- Scoping the requirements of a new Homeshare scheme including; feasibility study, consultation and research with key stakeholders and business planning
- Training covering key policy and practice areas
- Process and resource design including safeguarding, monitoring, data collection, outcome monitoring and design of key forms
- Developing a plan and evaluation framework
- An independent process and impact evaluation
- Recruitment and selection of staff
- Developing a framework for commissioning a Homeshare service

About Shared Lives Plus

In addition to being the UK network for Homeshare with 19 schemes across the UK and the Republic of Ireland, Shared Lives Plus is the voice for the UK's Shared Lives sector with 148 scheme members and 5,800 Shared Lives carer members.

Whilst Shared Lives and Homeshare are distinct forms of support, they share a number of values and objectives including; facilitating mutual support, reducing isolation and the belief that person-centred support in the home and the community plays a key role in preventing the problems, poor outcomes, and often high costs of either late intervention, or poorly designed institutional care.

They share some key differences too, as Homeshare is not regulated unlike Shared Lives which is a regulated care

service by the Care Quality Commission in England and similar bodies in the other nations of the UK. Homesharing occurs in the home of the individual seeking that bit of extra help to live independently whereas Shared Lives always takes place in the home of the Shared Lives carer.

The values they share include:

- People being in control of their lives and services
- Being valued by their communities and feeling like they belong
- Pursuing ordinary lives within their chosen families and relationships

Shared Lives Plus works with its members to:

- Provide resources, training, access to insurance and one-to-one support
- Enable members to talk to, support and learn from each other
- Ensure that members can act as a network to influence national and local decision makers and the development of a more personalised social care system
- Raise awareness of the value of members' work
- Commission research and strengthen the evidence base for our work

The Homeshare Partner Programme

The Homeshare Partner Programme was a £2 million programme developed by the Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales and the Big Lottery Fund. It brought together a range of partners including; Shared Lives Plus, Age UK, the Foyer Federation and Social Care Institute for Excellence to support the establishment and development of eight new schemes along with resources and support for the wider Homeshare Network. This programme has had significant impact in supporting growth in the sector over the past two years and renewed interest in the potential for Homeshare.

The research published by Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales and the Big Lottery Fund, highlights how inter-generational Homesharing can help reduce loneliness and isolation, improve well-being and address the lack of affordable housing options.

The research identified a number of successes and challenges:

Benefits and challenges

People who had been matched reported a number of benefits of living within a Homeshare:

- it reduces loneliness and improves wellbeing by offering companionship and facilitating inter-generational relationships
- it provides affordable housing for younger people who are often priced out of home ownership and even renting

Some of the key challenges encountered by the pilot sites to achieving matches included:

- It taking longer than anticipated to establish a steady pipeline of referrals
- Time spent on referrals for householders with needs too complex to be supported by Homeshare
- Locally limited housing available with spare bedrooms suitable for Homesharing.

"We feel that by providing a face-to-face service and building strong relationships with all parties, including Families of householder and homesharer they trust our scheme and know they have us for point of contact" Ruth Bamber, PossAbilities Homeshare Manager.



Homeshare UK network Members

Growth of Homeshare schemes across the UK and Republic of Ireland

There are currently 19 operational Homeshare schemes servicing key cities across the UK and Republic of Ireland. In the past 12 months seven schemes have closed however two of those schemes' activity has been transferred to PossAbilities Homeshare, who are looking to further develop and expand services across Liverpool and Nottingham in addition to the core activity in Manchester and the North West.

Key factors contributing to the closure of Homeshare schemes include; inability to secure additional funding to support activity, lack of appetite locally for Homeshare

amongst older people and no dedicated staff in the scheme managing Homeshare activity.

Schemes report that core business still predominately comes from the delivery of the traditional model of Homeshare; an older single person who requires low level support matched with a younger person who needs affordable accommodation. These matches on the whole are based in and around key cities.

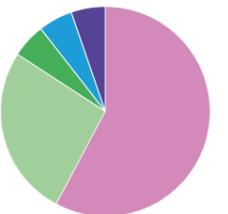
Several schemes over the past 12 months have expanded geographical boundaries and three schemes are now able to offer a national service.

Types of Homeshare schemes

There is a shift in balance in the number of charitable organisations delivering Homeshare. We currently have seven Homeshare schemes delivered by charities or community interest companies, one delivered by a local authority and 11 delivered by private sector companies.

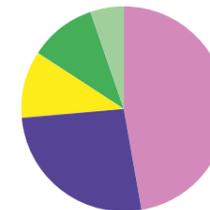
Legal status of schemes

- Community Interest Company
- Local Authority
- Other (not for profit Ltd by Guarantee)
- Charity
- Private Sector Schemes



Age of schemes

- < 1yr
- 1-3 yrs
- 3-5yrs
- 5-7yrs
- 7+yrs



Over half of our network members (53%) deliver other services in addition to Homeshare. These include; Shared Lives provision, domiciliary care, day care and or social support, health care, development, consultancy and training services.

Five schemes are less than a year old. Our oldest schemes, Share and Care and Homeshare West have been operational for 10 and 17 years respectively.

Staffing levels are small, but some schemes can tap into the wider work and experience of the organisation in which they are embedded. Most organisations have a mix of full and part time staff. Six schemes report engaging volunteers in their Homeshare work.



Homeshare West story

Homeshare West has been offering Homeshare to people in Bristol and Bath since 1999, when the founders of Homeshare were expanding outside London. Initially working as a volunteer, Audrey Heard became the Co-ordinator, hoping to make use of her experience and skills: a qualified State Registered Nurse, employment agency manager, training manager, self-employed training consultant, a Degree in Business Studies, and a Diploma in Counselling and her considerable volunteering experience.



Audrey Heard
Homeshare West founder and coordinator

Audrey is quietly enthusiastic about the value of homesharing to older people. Her mother-in-law moved into residential care at the age of 85, but her dearest wish was to have her own home again, with a live-in companion. Grace even bought a weekly Lottery ticket in the hope of winning enough to buy another house!

Based on reciprocity, mutual liking and respect, Audrey knows that homesharing gives householders invaluable independence and choice that is easily affordable. She adheres to the original principles of:

- initial accurate assessment of the householder's needs
- scrupulous vetting of homesharers
- careful matching for both parties
- imaginative problem solving
- appropriate monitoring

Over the years, Audrey has matched hundreds of people, helping householders remain at home

(just as her mother-in-law would have liked). In some cases, householders have been matched then re-matched, which can be quite a challenge when a strong bond was formed during the initial match.

One 96-year-old was faced with losing her first homesharer after three years. Her daughter wrote:

"She will be much missed, mother has so enjoyed her living in the house. She is so sensitive and caring and has always kept us very well in the loop if she's had any concerns about mother. She'll be a very hard act to follow, but I do hope the right person will come along soon." And the right person did, in plenty of time to have a handover and spend time with the householder before moving in.

Audrey is clear that the rewards of being involved with homesharing are not just for the householder and the homesharer. As Co-ordinator she has seen so many highly successful pairings, where friendship and mutual support are very evident, to the great relief of their families. That is her reward.'

Three schemes report to have reviewed fee structure to support long term sustainability. On average scheme charge £120 per month to householders and £160 per month for homesharers. Several schemes charge registration fees and one scheme charges a match and re-match fee.

In some schemes the householder will receive a contribution to household living costs from the homesharer but this is not standard practice and depends on the geography and /or focus of the scheme.

Safeguarding processes and practices, and making an appropriate match are considered key by all network members. In the past 12 months we have only been notified of one issue that was escalated to a local safeguarding team. This was related to a family member and issues were raised by the householder and homesharer to their local Homeshare Manager in the first instance. Schemes report only nine matches breaking down due to incapability or disagreements.

Several of the schemes that are currently grant funded are seeking additional grant funding from a range of sources to support continuation of their work beyond the existing grant period.



Case Study Share and Care Homeshare

Share and Care Homeshare was established in 2006 to address a growing need for affordable companionship and practical help for elderly people. From its office in Wimbledon, South West London, Share and Care offers help to the elderly – as well as people affected by illness, anxiety, loneliness and disabilities – across London and mainland UK.

Share and Care offers a bespoke, personal service and, with over 12 years of experience matching and mentoring, understands how important it is to put two people together who have common interests so that a genuine friendship can develop.

Caroline Cooke, founder of Share and Care, says; "Over the years we have seen first-hand the huge and positive impact of Homeshare. The householder receives the practical help, support and security they need to remain independent at home, while sharers benefit from a low-cost way of living and a place to call home. Homeshare truly is a win-win practically, emotionally and financially for both parties. We have seen householders discharged from mental health support teams thanks to the positive effect of having the friendship and reassurance of a sharer living with them."

Share and Care Homeshare helps combat loneliness and isolation, while giving reassurance to the householders' families too. Share and Care provides regular, on-going support to both the Homeowner and the Sharer, keeping an eye on the relationship. Share and Care remain on-hand to support and encourage a happy, friendly share and to help resolve any issues that may arise.

Our professional and friendly team of four are always at the end of the phone to provide a listening ear, practical tips, mediation if required, as well as training and advice for sharers supporting a Homeowner living with memory loss or long-term conditions such as dementia.



Share and Care Homeshare
www.shareandcare.co.uk

Quality assurance and good practice



We are striving for membership of the Homeshare UK network to be recognised as a badge of quality.

All our members are committed to work within the Shared Lives Plus good practice guide and to demonstrate good practice through self-assessment against our quality assurance framework.

The Homeshare UK quality assurance framework is a way in which schemes are demonstrating that they are delivering the best possible service they can for the people who use Homeshare.

The Homeshare UK quality assurance framework also ensures parity in core aspects of service delivery across the country.

We encourage and support our network members to ensure their service is both safe and effective by continually assessing and evaluating their operation and evidencing that their scheme is being delivered to a high standard.

The Homeshare UK quality assurance framework focuses on 10 areas of good practice covering key aspects of delivery including; governance, practice and sustainability.

The ten areas of good practice covered by the quality assurance framework are:

Good Practice 1 – Aims and Objectives

Demonstrating that the scheme understands the need or demand for their Homeshare scheme and that they have clear aims and objectives.

Good Practice 2 – Staffing

Demonstrating that the scheme has a highly experienced group of people delivering a quality service.

Good Practice 3 – Practice, Policy and Process

Demonstrating that the scheme has developed appropriate practice, process and policy to support safe and effective delivery their scheme.

Good Practice 4 – Safety

Demonstrating that the scheme helps its participants and staff to take positive risks and stay safe.

Good Practice 5 – Marketing and promotion

Demonstrating that the scheme is effectively marketed to the right audiences.

Good Practice 6 – Assessment

Demonstrating that the scheme can accurately assess the needs and wishes of participants and the suitability of the property.

Good Practice 7 – Matches

Demonstrating that the scheme makes timely, safe and lasting matches and rematches.

Good Practice 8 – Support

Demonstrating that the scheme supports matches effectively and helps participants deal with any problems and resolve any issues quickly.

Good Practice 9 – Monitoring and Evaluation.

Demonstrating that the scheme works with participants to monitor its outcomes and impact and uses the information to make improvements.

Good Practice 10 – Sustainability

Demonstrating that your scheme has longevity and is underpinned by a robust business model.

Five of our Schemes are now able to fully demonstrate that they are working within the framework and our other network members are working towards meeting the standards.



Methodology

The information collected for this report has been used by Shared Lives Plus to evidence the status of the Homeshare sector for the period April 2017 to March 2018.

We surveyed all our Homeshare UK schemes who provided information in relation to:

- Organisation structure
- Delivery of the Homeshare service
- Homeshare matches
- Scheme participants
- Equality and Diversity
- Issues and Challenges

Additional information has been gathered from:

- Family and Friends Survey 2018
- Homesharer and householder survey 2018
- Case studies from across the network
- Homeshare network meetings

Acknowledgments

Many thanks to our Homeshare UK network members who have contributed to this report:

C and V Inspire www.cvinspire.co.uk

Cara Trust <http://caralife.com/our-services/homeshare/homeshare-uk>

Draycott Homeshare www.draycotthomeshare.co.uk

Elderhomes www.elderhomeshare.ie

Edinburgh Development Group www.edghomeshare.co.uk

Homeshare West www.homesharewest.org

Homeshare Living www.homeshareliving.co.uk

Homeshare Leeds homeshare@leeds.gov.uk

Homeshare Oxford www.homeshareoxford.org.uk

Homeshare Isle of Wight www.ageuk.org.uk/isleofwight/our-services/homeshare-project

Lightshare www.Lightshare.co.uk

Novus Homeshare www.novus-homeshare.org.uk

PossAbilities Homeshare www.possabilities.org.uk/wp/homeshare

Room for Help www.roomforhelp.com

Remarkable People <http://remarkable-support.co.uk/homeshare>

Share and Care Homeshare www.shareandcare.co.uk

Support Match www.supportmatch.co.uk

Share my Home www.sharemyhome.co.uk

THE HomeShare www.thehomeshare.ie

For more information www.homeshareuk.org

Or contact the Homeshare UK Team on Contact@Homeshareuk.org

You can follow us Twitter twitter.com/Homeshare_UK

Facebook [www.facebook.com/ HomeshareUKNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/HomeshareUKNetwork)

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