

Homeshare Feasibility for Liverpool



Summary Report



Margaret and Holly – Photo Courtesy of Leeds Homeshare



Shared Lives Plus has been funded to develop a Homeshare service in Liverpool. We have undertaken a study to assess the feasibility of establishing a Homeshare service in Liverpool and this is a summary of the report's key findings.

Evidence of need

- As at March 2021, Liverpool's population is 500, 500 with 73, 800 (14.7%) being over 65 years which is under the national average of 18.6%. The largest increases in the older population have occurred in the 85+ years cohort (29% rise). The number of people aged 65+ is predicted to increase by 20.7% between 2020 and 2030.
- The One Liverpool Strategy 2019 – 2024 is a whole-system strategy setting out what partners will do together over the next five years for better population health and wellbeing in Liverpool. The strategy will tackle the long-term health inequalities that leave the vulnerable and disadvantaged in the city with a poorer experience of care, fewer years of healthy life and earlier death.
- There is a distinct lack of preventative services in Liverpool that offer low-level daily living support for older people.
- Central Liverpool ranked #1 of 32,844 local authorities at risk of loneliness in England.
- Liverpool is home to two universities and has a significant student population of approximately 70,000 people. Alongside this, Liverpool is home to five hospitals attracting a large workforce seeking affordable accommodation.

“Historically, the care system has operated a model that responds to ill-health, crisis or need. However, to overcome some of the challenges faced by the city, we must adopt a more proactive approach to adult social care, focused on preventing need for services; reducing dependency and developing services based on outcomes rather than tasks.” **Martin Farran Director of Adult Services, Liverpool**



Older people told us

- The biggest benefit Homeshare would bring to their lives would be companionship and making new friendships.
- Half of respondents told us that a helping hand maintaining their property would be beneficial and would contribute to them remaining in their own accommodation longer.
- Helping younger people make a start in life and find affordable accommodation was a key motivation when considering taking part in Homeshare.

Family and supporters of older people told us:

- Helping younger people make a start in life and find affordable accommodation was a key motivation when considering taking part in Homeshare.
- 100% of respondents felt that a helping hand with the maintenance of the home would be the biggest benefit of Homeshare as this would enable older people to remain in their own homes for longer.

Younger people told us:

- Homeshare is an opportunity to give something positive back and support someone in need, with the majority of respondents reporting that Homesharing would make them feel fulfilled about helping others, whilst making new friendships.
- The biggest benefits that Homeshare would bring to their lives would be access to affordable and better-quality accommodation and the chance to make new friendships.



Opportunities for Homeshare in Liverpool

- Supports older people to live independently for as long as they can in their own homes.
- Companionship helps to combat loneliness and isolation for both Householders and Homesharers.
- Potential for Homesharer to support Householder to engage with existing community activities.
- Reduces dependency on health and social care services and families and supporters of older people.
- A preventative approach which supports those with low level social support needs below eligibility thresholds for statutory social care.
- Providing good quality low cost homes for key low paid workers, students and other groups who need affordable housing.
- Potential to reduce isolation and loneliness caused by Covid-19 pandemic across communities in Liverpool.

Challenges for Homeshare in Liverpool

- Concerns around safeguarding.
- Lack of awareness of Homeshare in Liverpool.
- Concerns around the compatibility of Householders and Homesharers.



There are more than 21 Homeshare Organisations across the UK and Republic of Ireland, all of which are members of Homeshare UK. We are the home of Homeshare in the UK and offer support, guidance and resources to Homeshare providers.

Homeshare brings together someone who needs some help to live independently in their own home with someone who needs somewhere to live. In return for low cost accommodation the Homesharer provides a minimum of 10 hours of support each week to the Householder.

The two are matched together by local Homeshare organisations who find the right match and offer back up and support to ensure it works for both people.



Sylvia and Laura – Photo Courtesy of Homeshare Living

Shared Lives **Plus**

www.sharedlivesplus.org.uk www.homeshareuk.org

Company number 4511426

Reg Charity number (England and Wales) 1095562

Reg Charity No (Scotland) SC042743