

Homeshare Values, Code of Conduct and Compliance



Homeshare UK encourages all organisations who exist to offer Homeshare arrangements, to comply with the following set of values and behaviors. These have been designed by consultation of current and previous members of the Homeshare UK network who are all organisations developing or delivering Homeshare programmes.

The following information should be considered from the very start of your programme development and research and should follow through to the implementation and ongoing delivery of your services.

Definition of Homeshare

"Homeshare enables unrelated people to share their lives for mutual benefit.

Homeshare is a reciprocal arrangement where both the Homesharer and the Householder have something they need and something they can give to the Homeshare relationship."

Members of Homeshare UK (HSUK) recognise the value of being part of a network of like-minded organisations and individuals working together to bring trust and recognition to the Homeshare sector.

We welcome new members who are delivering or working towards delivering a Homeshare programme in the UK.

We ask all network members to work within our core values and behaviours and to deliver Homeshare as defined by Homeshare UK.





Homeshare Code of Conduct

All Homeshare UK Network members must ensure that:

- The Homeshare organisation is a registered Charity, Community Interest Company or Local Authority.
- The organisation has a comprehensive range of underpinning policies including Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Data Protection, Confidentiality, Equal Opportunities and Complaints.
- The organisation is committed to supporting and developing diversity and inclusion for all Homeshare participants.
- All practices and process are transparent, clear, and available to participants.
- The organisation has appropriate insurance in place including Employers, Public Liability and Professional Indemnity. There is a requirement to submit these policies to Homeshare UK each year as part of your membership compliance.
- The organisation is registered with a property redress scheme to comply with the Tenant's Fees Act 2019 if setting up in England. There is currently no requirement for Homeshare programmes in Wales, Northern Ireland or Scotland to join a similar scheme.
- Key elements of the Homeshare process are conducted face to face (where possible) including site inspection, interviews, introductions (matching), and where appropriate or requested by participants, some ongoing support.
- The Homeshare arrangement between the two parties is governed by an agreement that avoids creating a contract of employment or tenancy rights.
- The organisation demonstrates commitment to good practice and safety standards as outlined in the Homeshare UK Quality Assurance Framework and can demonstrate this within the first year of delivery.



Key Characteristics of the Homeshare model we promote include:

- The relationship is brokered, monitored and supported by the individual Homeshare organisations.
- The Homesharer provides an agreed amount of low-level practical help and/or companionship to the Householder whilst living in their home for an agreed minimum period.
- There are no elements of personal care (medication administration, bathing, feeding or lifting) provided by the Homesharer to the Householder.
- All participants are vetted and assessed for their suitability for participation.
- Careful matching - Creating a 'good match' that supports a mutually agreeable sociable living arrangement is a key priority.
- The arrangement is not wholly commercial; Homesharers are not charged market rate rent by the Householder but agree to contribute fairly to household costs, utilities and Council Tax, if asked to do so.
- The organisation refers onto other network members or back to Homeshare UK where appropriate.
- The organisation contributes to the Homeshare UK network by sharing learning, contributing to our annual State of the Sector survey and sharing case exemplars when feasible.
- The organisation keeps Homeshare UK and Shared Lives Plus staff informed of: media coverage, changes to contact details and staffing.



Homeshare UK values and behaviours

Homeshare UK network members agree to uphold the following core values in all their work and interactions:

- Support
- Respect
- Integrity
- Professionalism

As network members they also agree to a wider set of behaviours in dealings with participants, their supporters and with our fellow members:

- Listening
- Generosity in sharing knowledge and experience
- Respecting what is shared
- Asking permission
- Open conversation
- Courtesy
- Respecting difference
- Remembering the bigger picture
- Positive competition
- Commitment to good practice and safety standards

If you are interested in finding out more about Homeshare UK, starting a Homeshare service, or joining the Homeshare UK, you can find lots of useful information on our website at www.homeshareuk.org or contact us at contact@homeshareuk.org.uk

