

# Share and Care Homeshare



A low-cost live-in home support service



# About Share and Care Homeshare

**Share and Care Homeshare was established in 2006 to address a growing need for affordable companionship and practical help. We help older people, families and adults with disabilities across London and mainland UK.**

**We are members of Homeshare UK and are fully compliant with its Quality Assurance Framework.**

By using Share and Care Homeshare you can be assured that you will receive a high quality and personal service from our friendly and knowledgeable team. While there are many options for people needing personal care, few help to alleviate loneliness and give the ongoing companionship that sharing a home can give.

Homeshare is a low-cost solution offering practical help and support which can typically be very expensive if sought through separate channels.

Share and Care Homeshare pays great attention to the personalities of the Householders who are looking for help. We work in a professional, yet friendly manner to find Sharers who have similar interests so that genuine friendships can develop.

We are proud that our clients reward us by recommending us and, whilst we are keen to grow and promote the concept of homeshare across the UK, we are also committed to ensuring we maintain our high standards and give personal attention and support to all our clients.



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# Heading up the Share and Care Homeshare Team

## **Caroline Cooke**

**Share and Care Homeshare Director, Dementia Friends Champion**



Prior to establishing Share and Care Homeshare, Caroline previously ran an after-school nanny agency. *"Years of recruiting nannies, as well as 14 years' experience of running a homeshare scheme, has given me a wealth of experience in matching different characters and their varied needs. I also have a personal understanding of Dementia and how it can affect a family. I have trained as a Dementia Friends Champion to allow me to run information sessions for families and Sharers covering key messages that we want everyone to know about Dementia."*

## **Amanda Clarke**

**Share and Care Homeshare Director, Shared Lives Plus Board Member & Trustee**



Amanda joined in 2012 having previously run a business in Egypt and headed up the Design & Development team of Puma UK. *"My previous experience has included managing, employing and vetting potential employees; I not only recognise the importance of finding the right people to become Homesharers, but also understand the importance of having a stringent safeguarding procedure in place. Homeshare is a really beneficial concept and I feel privileged to be helping people who require some support to remain independent in their own homes as well as giving others an affordable way to live."*

Amanda joined the Board of Trustees of Shared Lives Plus in June 2017 to represent Homeshare within the Shared Lives Plus organisation. She has also completed the SCIE Safeguarding Adults Course.

## Why it works...

**Homeshare is a valuable community service, a way of supporting people to help each other. Homeshare matches people who need help to live independently in their own home (Householder) with people who are looking for an affordable place to live and are happy to give an agreed level of practical help and companionship in return (Sharer).**

### Why it works...

In essence, a Homeshare involves bringing together two people with different sets of needs, both of whom have something to offer each other. Based on the idea of exchange, the Householder offers a bedroom and the use of their home's facilities to the Sharer in return for around 15 hours a week of practical help, support and companionship which is normally spread out over the week.

By matching two people together who are like-minded and have common interests, Homesharing can give Householders the help, support and security they need, whilst offering Sharers a place to call home.

The Sharer will normally be over 24 years old and either working or studying. They will continue their regular job or studies during the day and offer the help and company mainly in the evenings with a few hours at the weekends. The help and companionship are spread out over the week so that it is not intrusive and the Householder will be able to maintain their own personal space and independence.

**In our experience, Homeshare helps to combat loneliness and isolation for the Householder as well as the Sharer, and is based on a mutual respect and understanding on both sides.**

## How it works...

A search for a suitable Sharer starts after we have identified the personality, needs and requirements of a Householder. We interview, reference check and vet any potential Sharer before introducing them to a Householder. We encourage Householders to meet their potential Sharer, often more than once, to ensure that they feel comfortable in offering the Homeshare. We will then draw up a licence agreement, perform final checks and continue to be a reassuring presence throughout the Homeshare arrangement.

### What does it cost...

Both Householders and Sharers contribute a nominal monthly fee which equates to £5 per day. As Share and Care Homeshare does not receive any funding, these contributions go towards finding, vetting and matching Sharers as well as monitoring and supporting each Homeshare arrangement.



### Length of share...

We undertake to match Sharers who are able to commit to a minimum of one year living in the Homeshare. Most arrangements last for at least a year, and many for several years. However, we understand that situations can change on both sides and accordingly a four week notice period is included in all Homeshare Licence Agreements.

**Share and Care Homeshare is a Community Interest Company (CIC) and therefore, as a social enterprise, offers the service for the benefit of the community.**

## Who it helps...

Share and Care Homeshare specialises in introducing Sharers to live with people who would appreciate some practical help and companionship in their own home at an affordable cost and supports a variety of people including:

- **Older people...**

who may benefit from some practical help and companionship because they are socially isolated, have mobility issues, sight and/or hearing loss, conditions such as Dementia, Parkinson's and arthritis; or if a couple, when one partner is living with Dementia or another long-term illness.

- **Adults with support needs...**

who are single and would benefit from support, perhaps because of a disability such as autism, bipolar disorder, early onset Alzheimer's, depression or anxiety; or couples where one person has a long-term illness or disease.

- **Families...**

who have children/young adults with physical disabilities or learning difficulties such as autism, ADHD and Down's Syndrome. The sharer offers practical help in the home and can also accompany the young person to activities and be their friend/chaperone, thereby offering some respite and reassurance to other family members.



# Don't just take our word for it...



**... the daughter of one of our clients told us:**

*"Having a Sharer from Share and Care enabled our very precious Dad to stay in his own home for the last two years of his life, which meant so much to him. It also meant that as a family, we had peace of mind. It is such a great idea for families of loved ones who can't be there all the time."*

**... our 29-year-old client who lives with bipolar disorder told us:**

*"Having a Sharer is really supportive and empowering! I believe that having this Homeshare in place has prevented me from relapsing and therefore kept me out of hospital. Having the company of someone of a similar age has also been a really positive experience."*

**... and her family added:**

*"The Share and Care scheme has been an absolute godsend, finding the perfect Sharer for our sister. She has gained her independence and can live in her own home – what we have been after for her for years!"*



**... another client's family told us:**

*"I would like to thank everyone at Share and Care for their very kind support over the last two years. The idea is fabulous and has enabled mum to stay at home for longer. Mum's two sharers have been great. I can't thank them enough for all the help and support that they have given tirelessly over the past two years to keep my mother safe, fed and healthy. I know that you have all gone the extra mile to help us and Mum."*

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## Example of a Share and Care Homeshare arrangement

The Sharer normally gives 10 hours of practical help across each week, such as:

*Shopping and cooking simple meals*

*Light cleaning and/or light gardening*

*Occasionally accompanying to appointments, social events and trips out*

In addition, the Sharer gives the Householder companionship (normally around 5 hours per week) which may include:

*Eating some meals together*

*Watching television together*

*Enjoying a cup of tea and a chat*

*Reading or studying and being in the home*



The Sharer will usually spend at least six nights each week sleeping in the property and a minimum of four evenings each week in the home (except for holidays and weekends away that have been pre-arranged with the Householder).

***NB Sharers are not permitted to give any personal or nursing care to the person they live with. If this type of support is required, a care package should be arranged through a personal care agency; this can sit alongside the homeshare arrangement.***



# Your Questions Answered

## ***What is the difference between a Carer and a Sharer?***

- A Carer is **formally trained** to give personal care and other regulated activities and therefore works under the guidelines of the Care Quality Commission regulations.
- A Sharer is a **volunteer** who is not permitted to give personal care and lives in the home to give an agreed number of hours of low-level practical help and friendly company.

*Both a Carer and a Sharer should have a current Enhanced DBS and at least two references*

## ***Why choose Homeshare?***

As well as the obvious benefits of Homeshare – nutritious home cooking, shopping and other practical help around the home – the hidden benefits include reducing anxiety and loneliness, increased security, mental stimulation through conversation and shared meals, reduced chance of falls, better sleep, reassurance for families and early warnings (eg the Sharer can alert the family if the person seems ill, or if they notice medication has been forgotten). Buying in this kind of help on a 'per hour' basis can be very expensive and on average costs about £15 per hour\* - that's nearly £11,000 per year if you have a carer for 14 hours a week. Additionally, an overnight presence can cost on average £120 per night.

*\* The Money Advice Service*

## ***Is Homeshare safe?***

Share and Care Homeshare takes safeguarding very seriously and has a robust policy in place, ensuring that all Sharers are vetted and reference-checked in line with current safeguarding procedures. Share and Care Homeshare Director, Amanda Clarke has also completed the SCIE Safeguarding Course to ensure we maintain the highest standards.

## ***How might my Council Tax be affected by having a Sharer?***

- If the Sharer is a full-time student, then they are exempt from Council Tax and no additional Council Tax is payable as a result of them moving in. If you are claiming a Single Person 25% Discount, that would not be affected.
- If the Sharer is working, then there is a possibility that your Single Person Discount may be withdrawn. However, councils do have different rules as to whether a Sharer can be exempted from Council Tax. Our advice is that you contact your council and discuss your personal situation directly with them. As a Sharer is deemed to be a **volunteer** living in the home to give practical help and companionship, some councils are beginning to see the benefit of this for their residents and may allow the Householder to keep their existing discount. If that is not the case, Sharers can be asked to pay an agreed, capped contribution to any increase in Council Tax as a result of them moving in.
- It is also worth noting that some residents' medical conditions - such as Dementia, Parkinson's, severe learning difficulties or a stroke - may also entitle them to a discount/exemption.

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# Your Questions Answered

## ***Will I lose my benefits if I have a Sharer?***

Benefits such as Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Benefit are not taken away if you have a Sharer. In fact, if you are claiming this kind of benefit, Council Tax may not be payable and the Sharer may not be liable for any Council Tax payments, regardless of their work status. It is important you clarify this according to your personal situation.

## ***Who pays the household bills?***

The Householder continues to be responsible for the household bills of the property and normally a Sharer does not contribute towards these. However, the Householder is entitled to request an agreed contribution to Council Tax per month.

## ***Who pays for food in a Homeshare?***

Usually the Householder and the Sharer pay for their own food, or a fair share of the cost of the food if eating together.

## ***Why should I use Share and Care Homeshare to facilitate a Homeshare?***

Share and Care Homeshare is a member of Homeshare UK, adheres to its Quality Assurance Framework and has Safeguarding and Conflict Resolution policies in place. The organisation offers expertise and knowledge when matching people together. For the duration of every Homeshare agreement we remain in regular contact with both parties to give advice and to ensure they are fully supported. The organisation has experience in interviewing and obtaining relevant references and is also registered to apply for Enhanced DBS checks\* for Sharers. When a match has been agreed, a Homeshare Licence Agreement is drawn up between both parties which lays out the responsibilities and guidelines for both the Householder and their Sharer.

\*An Enhanced DBS (criminal records) check can only be completed by a registered organisation

## ***Why do I pay monthly for the facilitation of the service?***

The facilitation fee is paid by both the Householder and Sharer and contributes towards the running of the service and the ongoing mentoring and support.

## ***Why is Share and Care Homeshare a Community Interest Company (CIC)?***

A Community Interest Company is a business with primary social objectives, whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners. Designed for social enterprises that want to use their profits and assets for the public good, it is believed that CICs have a distinct and valuable role to play in helping create a strong, sustainable and socially inclusive economy.

# Share and Care Homeshare is a member of Homeshare UK

Share and Care Homeshare is proud to be a member of Homeshare UK and Homeshare International, which are sectors of Shared Lives Plus. Homeshare is increasingly becoming a sustainable model for housing and social care by enabling participants to enjoy a fulfilling community-based living experience.

## Why use Share and Care Homeshare...

- Experienced Homeshare provider since 2006
- Friendly, knowledgeable and empathic team
- High quality, professional and personal service
- Homeshare UK Quality Assurance Framework compliant
- Safeguarding Policy & Procedures in place
- Community Interest Company with primary social objectives
- Sharers offer 15 hours of practical help/company per week
- Nationwide service covering London and mainland UK



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*"Many thanks for all your help and support in finding someone to homeshare with Mum. I remember phoning last year unsure if I was doing the right thing. You were all so professional and understanding of my situation with Mum suffering from Dementia. She was adamant she wanted to stay in her own home and wasn't going into a care home! You found her a lovely Sharer quickly. The whole process was so smooth and it has worked beautifully for the past year."*

**If you are interested in the service offered by Share and Care Homeshare  
and would like more information or to discuss further  
please contact us**

**on**

**020 3865 3398 / 020 8405 6316**

**Homeshare Experts CIC t/a Share and Care Homeshare**

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