

# Homeshare Oxford

Penny Thewlis

18<sup>th</sup> June, 2019



# How it works

Homeshare Oxford carefully matches up older people in Oxfordshire who may need a bit of help to continue to live independently at home, with another person who needs affordable accommodation, wants to be part of a home and can lend a hand.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZvnOQpbWi8>

# The benefits

- **The Householder benefits** from some practical help around the home, companionship & the reassurance of having someone living in with them.
- **The Sharer benefits** from affordable accommodation, companionship and living in a homely environment
- **Wider benefits to community**

# What participants are saying

Catherine and I have become firm friends over the 18 months I have been living here. It really is a truly reciprocal arrangement. I simply couldn't afford to live in Oxford with Homeshare and I know that Catherine would struggle to cope without the help that I am able to give. Simple things like hanging out the washing I know is really appreciated. But, equally importantly, we really enjoy each other's company so greatly. I can honestly say that this experience has transformed my life.'

SHARER

'The night [my Sharer] moved in, I had the first good night's sleep I've had in months. It was so reassuring just to have someone there in the house. I can really say that it has been a real joy ever since – we both seem to look forward to the evening when we can tell each other about our days and we do have a real laugh.'

HOUSEHOLDER

# The money

- The Householder pays a **registration fee of £75** when a suitable match has been found.
- Then, **monthly** payments of **£100 (Householder)** and **£200 (Sharer)** are paid to Homeshare Oxford.
- The Sharer also pays a contribution to the Householder to cover a proportion of household bills & compensate for loss of Council Tax discount, if applicable

# The Checks – for Sharers

- References x 3 – Character, Employer or Institution and current landlord
- Enhanced DBS Check (re vulnerable adults)
- Disclosure of any convictions is required at application stage, and existing physical or mental health conditions
- Extensive interview

NB. Applicants are increasingly friends of current Sharers

# The Checks – Householders

- Character References x 2
- Disclosure of any convictions
- Physical or mental health conditions
- Extensive interview
- Home safety checks required – Gas, Electrics, Fire Safety, Carbon monoxide alarms,

NB. Family members usually involved in all application stages

# Where we are now?

- Steady progress on matches – building relationships
- Number of matches:
  - *Total matches to date* 30
  - Live 12
  - Match ready 7 + 6
  - Pipeline 6



# Wendy and Eleanor

- Living together for over 2 and a half years
- Wendy in her late 80s, with limited mobility and needing support to stay in her own home
- Wendy in her early 20s, able to live in Oxford, working as an artist, studying and volunteering, thanks to Homeshare
- Eleanor helps with Households chores, some laundry, shopping but companionship is key...

## Wendy and Eleanor enjoy....

- Regular chats over a cup of tea, most days
- Thursday night is movie night! Wendy and Eleanor select a film in advance, but only watch it after they have both read the book!
- Trips out, including to Homeshare Oxford socials!
- A really strong friendship



# Next Steps

- Momentum building, but scale limited
- Gradually expanding beyond Oxford city
- Most recent match is in Witney
- Emphasis both on identifying and recruiting householders and on best means of recruiting Sharers to specific opportunities
- Capitalise on existing contacts and develop new ones

# Promotion – sharers, householders and prospective matches



5<sup>th</sup> December  
Oxford Homeshare event

# Contact

- Homeshare@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk
- [www.homeshareoxford.org.uk](http://www.homeshareoxford.org.uk)
- 01865 410670