



*Photo Credit: Homeshare Living / BBC: Karolina and Joan featured in BBC news earlier this year.*

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# Homeshare UK

## Annual report 2020

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**Homeshare UK is part of Shared Lives Plus, the national network for shared Living.**

**Our vision is a kinder, stronger society built on sharing our lives and our homes.**

# Key Messages

Collectively, Homesharers have provided around **178,000 hours** of support to their Householders during 2020.

The Homeshare model and the HSUK network have proved resilient during the pandemic. With new practices and process developed in line with government guidelines, many are not only starting to recover and make new matches but are thriving.

Network members reported **increased interest and referrals to Homeshare** by potential Householders, older people's families and health and social care professionals.

The sector has grown by 3% with **1072 people benefiting from Homeshare** over the year despite the impact of the pandemic.

Householders identified **'companionship'** and **'having someone to share a meal with'** as key benefits of Homeshare for them.

Friends and family reported **'help in the home'** and an **'overnight presence** in the house' were the benefits they valued most.

Homesharer groups in 2020 were older with 80% being aged between 26 and 49.



Photo: Iris and Johanna, courtesy of Share and Care

## “Homesharing gave me a new zest for life!”

Every evening, Iris, 90 and Johanna, 45 head into the kitchen to cook their evening meal together. They may be decades apart in age, but they find this is a lovely opportunity to chat about their days and enjoy one another's company.

Matched in early in 2020 by Share and Care Homeshare, Iris says it has changed her life.

# Introduction

After a successful 2019, we started 2020 with drive and enthusiasm for further growth and innovation, and the Homeshare network was busier than ever making and supporting Homeshare matches.

**Covid-19 cases have thankfully been low in Homeshare households;** however, the pandemic has impacted on the network in other ways.

Nearly 60% of ended matches in 2020 were directly due to the pandemic. Some Homesharers, particularly non-British national's left to return to their families and many Householders moved in with family or friends. For those matches that remained, **Homeshare became the lifeline** they needed to help them through lockdown.

Our network has been committed to developing new ways of working and supporting Homeshare participants. Robust matching, safeguarding, and follow up support procedures have always been the bedrock of the Homeshare model. These have been further adapted and modified to bring the risk of infection to both Householders, Homesharers and staff down to an absolute minimum whilst still making safe and effective Homeshare matches.

***“Neither of us could have predicted that home-sharing would turn out this way. But it really has helped us both so much through lockdown. Olivia is a great companion, so kind, helpful and full of life. She’s taught me to use Zoom and FaceTime so I’m able to keep in touch with my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But nothing beats having someone with you.”***

**Sylvia, Householder in London**

# The Homeshare Model

Homeshare is a shared living model that brings together two people for mutual benefit.

Together, Homesharers and Householders share home life, time, skills and experience.



Householders get practical help and companionship at home.



Homesharers get a safe and affordable place to live.



Both live sociably, reducing isolation and loneliness.

## Homeshare has distinctive characteristics:

- It is not a regulated activity and the Homesharer must not provide any element of personal care.
- The Homesharer provides practical support which can include help with shopping, cleaning, and cooking but more importantly the sharer must be prepared to live sociably in the property, providing companionship to the Householder.
- Homeshare organisations play a pivotal role in in the relationship. They undertake all the key safety checks, make appropriate introductions, and provide ongoing support.

**Every day when Beth gets home from work, we chat about her day, she is so kind, good fun and bakes me my favourite cookies too!" Sheila, Householder**

**Beth and Novus Homeshare have been a lifeline for us. Having someone who cares about mum and enjoys her company has been the most fantastic aspect to this match. Sheila's Daughter**



*Photo: Sheila and Beth, courtesy of Novus Homeshare*



# The Homeshare UK Network



Homeshare programmes are run by not-for profit organisations including:

**Charities**

**CICs**

**Local Authorities**

There are 20 members of the Homeshare network, 18 are active across the UK and The Republic of Ireland.

[Download a list here](#)

**9**

Homeshare programmes have been running for more 3 years.

**3**

Homeshare Programmes have been running for over 7 years.

**21**

The oldest Homeshare programme has been successfully making and supporting Homeshare matches for over 21 years.

11 programmes reported to be wholly funded by income generated by fees.

Only 2 programmes are grant funded.



**5**

network members provide other services for older people including:

**Domiciliary Care**


**Befriending**

**Activity Sessions**

**Advice and Information**

# Who Uses Homeshare?


The network supported a total of 536 matches during 2020 an increase of 3% on last year.




**344**

At the point of data collection (December 2020) there were 344 active matches, a decrease of 7.5% on last year.

A total of 192 matches ended during 2020.



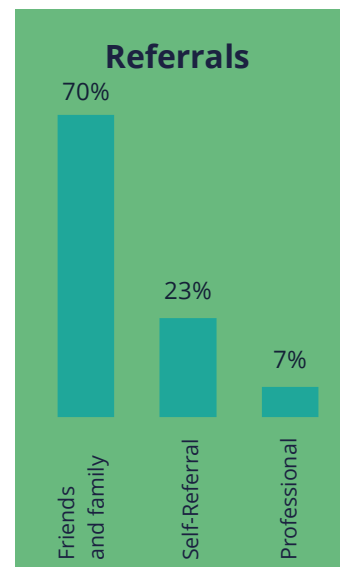
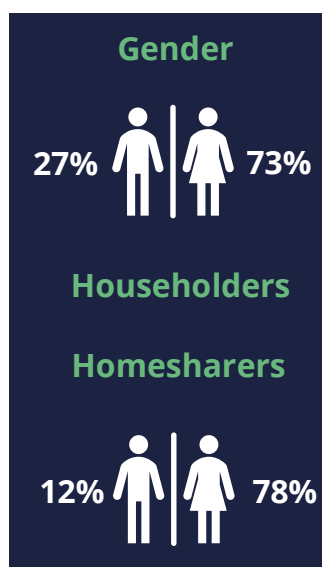
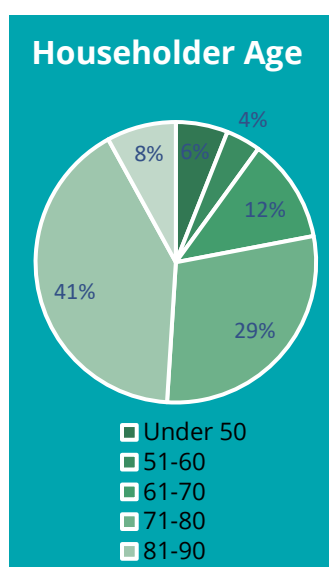
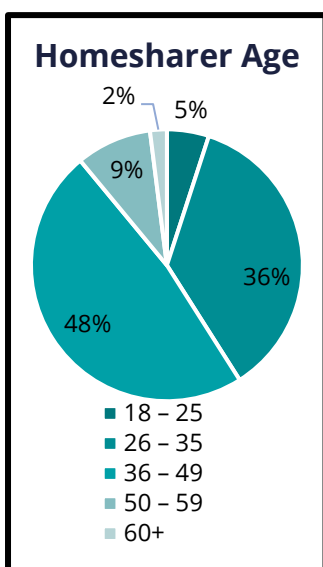
59% of these as a direct result of the pandemic.




Currently 104 older people are waiting to be matched with a Homesharer.

The key groups of **Householders** using Homeshare are older single people and older couples between the ages of 70 and 90. Our network reported other Householder groups including people with life limiting illness, people with disabilities and people with learning disability.

The majority of **Homesharers** are now between ages 25 and 49 and include young professionals (38%), postgraduate and mature students (34%), public sector workers and older professionals (21%) in need of affordable accommodation. There are an increasing number of semi-retired and younger-older people (7%) becoming Homesharers.



# Mike and Brian



*Photo: Mike and Brian, Courtesy of Homeshare Gloucestershire*

Mike, 86, a retired electrical engineer and local councillor already had a lodger living with him, but really wanted the reassurance of a Homesharer. Mike suffers with Parkinson's and so was looking for someone to remind him of appointments alongside some companionship and perhaps some gardening.

Homeshare Gloucestershire introduced him to Brian, 76 who still works in social care and the two got on straight away. Being closer in age means they have a lot in common and enjoy talking about their lives. Mike has said that having Brian there during lockdown has been wonderful. They have done lots of gardening together whilst the weather was lovely and enjoyed a cheeky afternoon nap when it was raining.

Mike says:

**It gets a bit boring living entirely on your own. Although I have a lodger, he tends to be very independent and stay in his room most of the time. I wanted a bit more companionship around the home. Some assistance if something happened to me.**

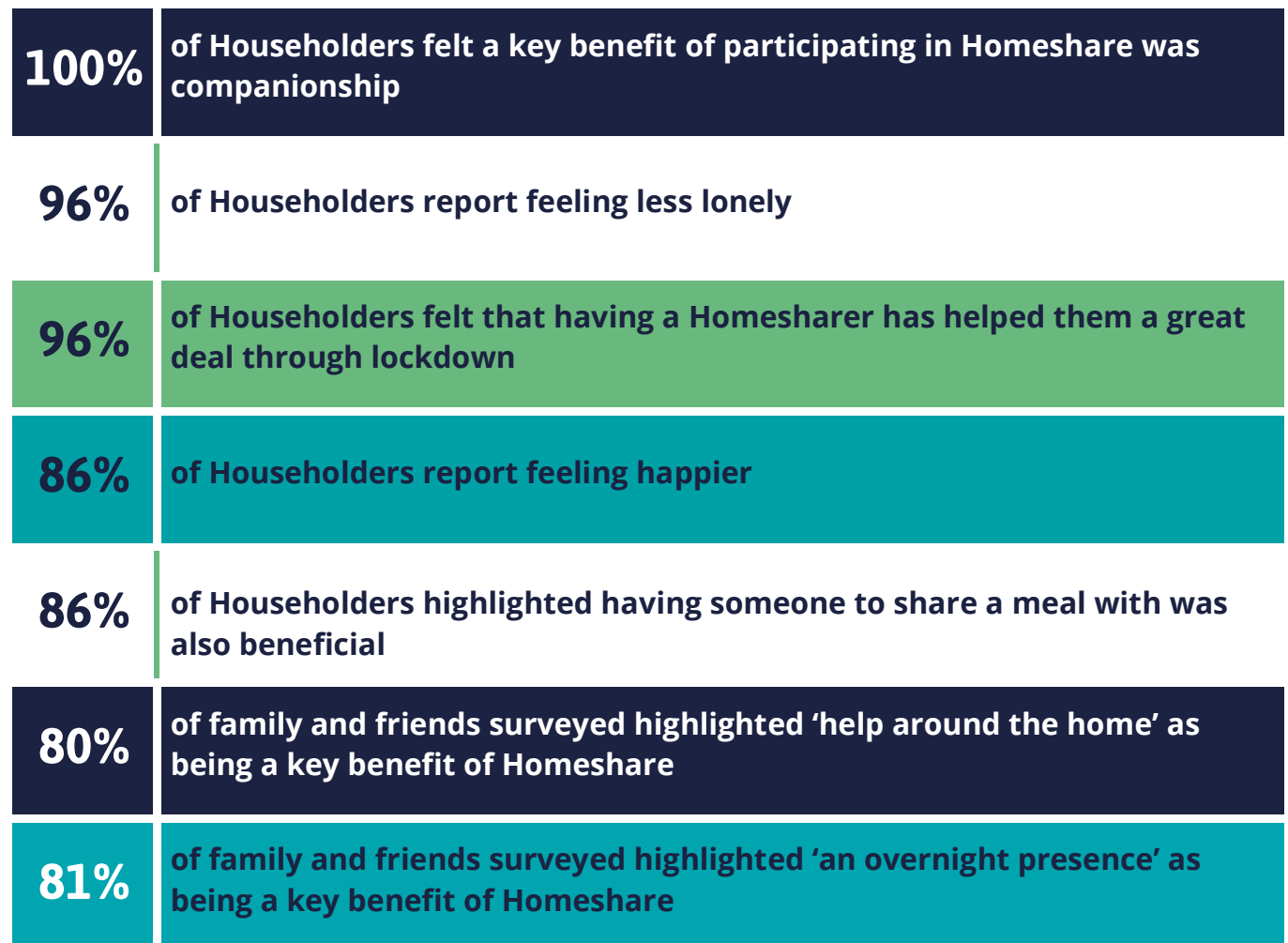
Brian says:

**The biggest thing is that you find somewhere to live at an affordable price. Also, it's nice to have some companionship and, of course and I get to live in a very nice neighbourhood!**

# The Impact of Homeshare

Homeshare is impacting directly on the lives of participants and their supporters.

We surveyed Householders and their family and friends to discover the difference Homeshare was making.



In 2020 our Homesharers provided over **178,000** support hours to Householders helping with tasks such as cleaning, shopping, cooking and gardening.





# Our work in East Anglia

During 2020 we have pushed forward on our work funded by the Mercers Company which will bring Homeshare to Norfolk and more widely across the East of England. To help us understand the potential for Homeshare locally, we consulted with older people, their friends and families, younger people and a wide range of voluntary sector organisations and local government.



## Family and supporters of older people in Norfolk told us:

- The biggest benefits of Homeshare would be the reassurance of an overnight presence and daily companionship for their loved one.

## Younger people told us:

- The biggest benefits Homeshare would bring would be access to affordable and better-quality accommodation.
- Homeshare would be an opportunity to give something positive back and support someone in need.

## Older people themselves told us:

- The biggest benefits Homeshare would bring to their lives would be companionship and reduced isolation.
- Helping younger people make a start in life and find affordable accommodation was a key motivation when considering taking part in Homeshare.
- Almost three quarters told us that they would sign up to take part in a Homeshare arrangement if a service was available in available Norfolk.

***“The gap is around the ‘just about coping’ group that often miss out on support. Particularly if families are not local – low level support is what is desperately needed to help people remain independent in their own homes for longer.”*** **YMCA Norfolk**

**Thank you to all our Network Members who contributed:**

<u>Age UK Hillingdon, Harrow and Brent</u>	<u>Leeds Homeshare</u>
<u>Cambridge Homeshare</u>	<u>Lightshare Homesharing Services</u>
<u>Draycott Homeshare</u>	<u>Novus Homeshare</u>
<u>Homeshare Gloucestershire</u>	<u>Riverhouse Homeshare</u>
<u>Homeshare Living</u>	<u>Share and Care Homeshare</u>
<u>Homeshare Oxfordshire</u>	<u>Share my Home</u>
<u>Homeshare Solutions</u>	<u>Supportmatch</u>
<u>Homeshare West</u>	<u>THE Homeshare</u>
<u>Homeshare York</u>	<u>Two Generations Homeshare</u>

**For more information  
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**Homeshare UK is part of Shared Lives Plus**

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