



CHARTER

1. Definition of Homeshare

Homeshare is the exchange of housing for help. A householder offers housing to a homesharer in exchange for an agreed level of support. This might include companionship, security, help with daily tasks, or a combination of these, and may include a rental element. Homeshare recognises that both people have needs AND something to give. Homesharers do not provide nursing or personal care.

2. Vision of Homeshare International

Our vision is for a society in which fewer people live lonely and isolated lives, and where intergenerational solidarity is promoted.

3. Mission and purpose of Homeshare International Network

We believe in the importance of:

- People having the opportunity to remain in their own homes;
- Younger people or those living on low incomes having access to affordable accommodation;
- Developing an evidence base for the effectiveness of Homeshare to achieve both those objectives.

Our shared purpose is to:

- encourage and support all members to meet locally-defined needs as effectively as possible and to operate to the highest standards;
- encourage other homeshare practitioners to join the Network so as to widen the learning and support circle;
- encourage and support the development of new programmes where possible.

4. Objective of Homeshare International Network

The objective of the Homeshare International Network is to facilitate homeshare programmes to work in a co-operative way to support the principles set out in this Charter.

There are homeshare programmes in many different countries, run by a range of different agencies, and using a variety of homeshare practice models. Network members are mindful

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that there is no single model of homeshare practice. It is assumed that members use a model of homeshare practice that meets local circumstances.

The Homeshare International Network encourages the formation and development of effective homeshare programmes operating to a high standard, and by sharing information and working together, improve all programmes' ability to:

- ensure maximum access to support at home for all who would benefit, including, but not limited to, older people and those living with disabilities;
- ensure maximum access to affordable accommodation for those who need it and are willing to provide support for householders;
- encourage positive intergenerational relationships;
- demonstrate effective service policy and practice;
- offer mutual support;
- influence policy both internally and externally;
- encourage and facilitate appropriate research.

5. Values: Key common principles of Homeshare International Network members

- The primary purposes of a homeshare programme are to:
 - promote the principle of homeshare in the catchment area covered by the programme;
 - recruit householders in need of support at home;
 - recruit homesharers in need of accommodation who are willing to offer support;
 - effect introductions and facilitate appropriate matches;
 - provide support for householders and homesharers during the period of the match.
- Programmes may be resourced by volunteers, local authorities, commercial interests, or the individual participants themselves, according to local custom and need;
- Programmes are non-political and non-sectarian, and do not discriminate against applicants, staff or volunteers on the grounds of race, creed, gender or sexual orientation;
- Programmes are run in a professional manner, whether by paid staff or volunteers; and
- Programmes are mutually supportive and committed to sharing information with fellow member programmes, and participating in processes and activities of the Network.

6. Homeshare programmes' commitment

When joining the Network, member programmes commit:

- to provide a reliable and high-quality matching service;
- to promote the concept of homeshare as an integral part of housing and community support services;
- to support homesharers and householders;
- to share information and work together, for greater efficacy;

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- to achieve recognition and acceptance of homeshare as a valid service in the provision of support to people in their own homes.

7. The process of working together

All members of the Network agree to work with other members in a way that inspires trust, fosters information exchange and results in successful outcomes both for Homeshare International and homeshare programmes.

The Homeshare International Network will operate in a culture of continuous improvement and will review the effectiveness and value of the Network.

8. Membership of the Homeshare International Network

Membership is open to homeshare programmes and to organisations and individuals who support the homeshare concept and agree to the ***Principles of working together*** as set out below.

There are two levels of membership of the Homeshare International Network:

- A. **Programme membership** is open to –
- homeshare programmes anywhere in the world;
 - those organisations or individuals planning to start a homeshare programme;
 - national networks of homeshare programmes;
 - organisations that support the aims of the Network
- B. **Individual membership** – a donation from any individual will provide access to member benefits.

9. Benefits of membership

The key benefits of membership are the opportunities to engage with and learn from other members.

Homeshare International will:

- provide a website www.homeshare.org to maintain a flow of news, comment and resources (such as practice handbooks, photos, training materials, evaluation studies and videos) for public information
- provide a password-protected “Network Members only” section of the website, to allow members to share materials and communicate with each other;
- issue newsletters to Network members and other interested parties at least twice yearly;
- maintain a directory of homeshare programmes on its website;
- organise a biennial international congress to enable Network members to meet face to face, offering Members a discounted delegate charge;
- list contact details of members on its website and provide links to members’ websites
- refer enquiries from both householders and homesharers to appropriately located Network member(s);

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- as resources permit, offer a small bursary scheme, to assist new programmes to get underway.

Network members will:

- designate a person within their organisation who will act as the main correspondent;
- supply information to enable the programme directory to be kept up to date;
- contribute news items for the newsletter and website on activities, progress and plans when appropriate or when asked to do so;
- share practice guidelines, evaluation studies, training materials, photos and videos
- send delegates to the international congress whenever possible and contribute to the formal programme when relevant;
- provide a link from their website to the Homeshare International website.

Members may indicate that they are Network members in their communications using the words “..... is a member of the Homeshare International Network” and using the Homeshare International logo for that purpose (available on request).

10. Governance

The Network will be run by Homeshare International, which is governed by a group of Trustees, supported by an International Advisory Council. Members of these two groups are listed on the website. In the longer term it is envisaged that the Network will become self-governing.

The biennial conferences will provide opportunities for Network members to meet and discuss how the Network is running, to provide feedback to Trustees and Advisors.

11. Loss of membership

In the event of a member of the Network not acting in the spirit of this Agreement, they may be asked to withdraw and to delete reference to its membership from all communications. The membership fee will not be refunded.