

Make a Match and Share Your Home in East Sussex

An innovative new scheme has been launched to provide help and support for the elderly and vulnerable in East Sussex.

'Homeshare' aims to match people together so that a householder gets a bit of extra help around the house in return for letting someone live in their home. This could be for anyone aged 18 years or over who may need help because they have a physical or learning disability, a mental health problem or feel they just need that extra bit of support to live independently.

Adult Social Care will organise this match so that both parties benefit from the arrangement and will ensure that it is working well. Usually the householder will be an elderly person living on their own, providing a room for their sharer rent-free. In return the sharer will give about 10 hours a week unpaid help, such as cooking dinner, gardening or shopping.

This works out well for both parties as they are safe in the knowledge that they are secure and have support from a Homeshare Co-ordinator in Adult Social Care. The Co-ordinator will aim to put the right people together, ensure security checks are in place, conduct in-depth interviews and provide ongoing support. This includes helping with the initial agreement and then monitoring its success. If the arrangement does not work out then it can be ended and new matches found if appropriate.

An East Sussex spokesperson said:

"Homeshare will provide benefits to many people in East Sussex. For example elderly people and others will be able to remain independent and secure in their own homes for longer and younger people will have a place to live. Of course this is not a substitute for professional care, if it is needed, but is a welcome boost to the wide range of services that can be provided in East Sussex".

Kate Hardy, who is managing the Homeshare Scheme for Adult Social Care said:

"A householder can have some help, companionship, security and peace of mind about the person they are letting into their home. There is also reassurance for family and friends that their loved one is not alone and has a bit of extra help. For the homesharer there is somewhere to live, rent-free in an area or property that might otherwise be unaffordable".



For further information contact Kate Hardy, Homeshare Co-ordinator on 01323 444107 or email kate.hardy@eastsussex.gov.uk www.eastsussex.gov.uk
