



**Home Share**  
Shared Lives for Inclusive Living

## South East Community Healthcare

### What is Home Share?

Home Share is a family based model of respite. Home Share is when families in the community open their homes to provide respite to adults or children with a disability. Home Sharing is seen as a valuable and unique type of respite service and there are numerous successful services throughout Ireland. Home Share is being developed in the South East and will form part of a menu of services within Disability Services. The oversight and management of Home Share is provided by a group of people who represent the voluntary and non-voluntary disability sector in the South East, family members and those who avail of Home Share.

Current members include:

The HSE, The Cairdeas Centre, BEAM, The Central Remedial Clinic, Waterford Intellectual Disability Association, The Brothers of Charity (South East), Ard Aoibhinn Services, SOS (Kilkenny) Ltd., Tusla (The Child and Family Agency), The Muiriosa Foundation, Camphill Communities of Ireland, a family member representative and a representative for those who avail of Home Share services.

The initiative is funded with thanks through the Service Reform Fund in conjunction with Genio and with support from the National Home Share and Short Breaks Network (NHSN), the premier association of people and organisations engaged in using, promoting and providing Home Sharing family-based services.

### The Value of Home Share

Home Share allows parents or other family members/carers the chance to step outside their usual routine and experience a break. It also offers the child or adult the opportunity to build new skills, relationships and roles.



## Types of Home Share

There are 3 different categories of Home Share:

Short Breaks	Contract Families	Shared Living Placements
Short break families usually support a guest for one or a number of short breaks per month. Short breaks are based on the needs of the respite guest and family, as well as the host family's availability around work and other commitments.	A contract family provides regular short breaks to guests with more complex support needs. These families provide a certain number of nights respite each month to the same person or to a number of guests on different days.	A shared living family is a family that provides full-time care to a person with a disability. The host family make their home available to a guest on a full-time basis as a member of their family. The person continues to attend their school/day service etc. and may spend some time during the month with their own family or another family.

### Who can become a Home Share host?

You don't need to have experience working with people with disabilities or qualifications for this to be an opportunity for you. You just need time, commitment, patience, flexibility and plenty of enthusiasm. You need to be over 18 and have suitable accommodation. It doesn't matter if you rent, live alone, your gender or your background.

### Training and Vetting

Potential host families engage in training, Garda vetting, Tusla checks and social work assessment prior to being eligible. Medical checks and references are also required.

Training will take place over a number of weeks and is a great opportunity to meet with other potential host families. Common training topics include disability awareness, communication, manual handling and safeguarding.

After completing the training a social worker meets with potential host families in their home. This happens a number of times and the social worker meets with the family to explore their attitudes and expectations of Home Share.

When all of these steps are completed the social worker writes a report on each potential host family. An approval panel reviews each host family application and makes the final decision for approval.

### Matching

Approved host families are matched with guests based on their compatibility and ability to support the guests' needs. Introductions between families are supported by the social worker and are done at a pace that suits everyone.

### Support

Host families receive support from the social worker throughout the entire process, from the initial application, to training and assessment. Ongoing reviews, support and training are provided as required. Host families receive an allowance for the respite they provide.

### Home Share Guests

People availing of Home Share range in age and have different levels of need. Some individuals have more complex needs that may include medical needs and physical disabilities.

People interested in availing of Home Share can be referred to the service with the support of a professional who works closely with them. Guests are prioritised based on their assessed need and an offer of Home Share is then dependent on the availability and compatibility of existing host families.

### For further information:

Please see [www.nhsn.ie](http://www.nhsn.ie)

Or contact

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