

person you will support. Our Hosts support from as little as one short break/4 hours a month, to full-time supported living..

### 13. How often are the placements?

Short break placements can be for a couple of hours a week, an overnight, or a weekend. We also facilitate placements on a full-time basis. Each placement is arranged based on the Host's availability, alongside the person we support's needs and wishes, and their family's needs.

### 14. Is it ok for the Person Supported to meet with my friends and family?

Yes. We encourage Hosts to involve people they support in their family life and activities. This includes day to day tasks such as shopping and cooking as well as social activities such as going to the cinema or out for a meal.

### 15. I live in a rural area, do I need to be near a town?

No. The people we support live in County Louth or Meath, however we have Hosts from the surrounding areas, in towns, villages, on farms, etc. Your location will be taken into consideration when being matched with a person we support.



Would you like to know more about becoming a HomeShareHost? Talk to us

#### CONTACT DETAILS:

Mo Shaol HomeShare Service

#### Positive Futures

Office 4, The Business Centre,  
Blackthorn Business Park,  
Coes Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth A91 EO3R

Phone: 042 942 8078

Email: [moshaolservice@positive-futures.net](mailto:moshaolservice@positive-futures.net)



The Mo Shaol HomeShare Service is run by Positive Futures in partnership with HSE Disability Services, Louth and Meath.



Seirbhís Sláinte  
Níos Fearr  
á Forbairt

# HomeShare & Short Breaks Service

## Frequently Asked Questions For HomeShare Hosts



**POSITIVE FUTURES**  
ACHIEVING DREAMS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.  
[www.positive-futures.ie](http://www.positive-futures.ie)

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. What is Home Sharing?

Home Sharing is an internationally recognised model of support for children and adults with disabilities. It is a person centered, community-based approach that serves as an alternative to traditional respite and residential services. It operates on the premise of ordinary households, that are assessed, trained and supported, opening their homes to individuals with disabilities, with an emphasis on building family-like relationships and sharing daily life as part of the household and community.

Arrangements are based on a careful matching process and mutual choice and can provide both long-term and short-term breaks tailored to meet an individual's needs and aspirations.

## 2. Who can apply?

Anyone over 18 can apply to become a Home Share and Short Break Host (Host). Hosts come from a variety of backgrounds and can be working, retired, single, in a couple, with or without children, etc. There is no upper age limit as

## 3. How do I become a host?

Prospective Hosts are allocated a Home Share Social Worker who will work closely with them to carry out an assessment, exploring their background, life experiences and reasons for applying. This assessment is presented to an approval panel, who decide whether they meet the criteria to be approved as Hosts. The Social Worker will also obtain Garda Vetting and Police Clearance checks (where appropriate) for anyone over 18 in the home, checks with Tusla, medical reference, and other references. The application process can take between 3 and 6 months.

## 4. Does everyone in the house hold need to be assessed?

If placements are in your home and you have a partner living with you, we will have to assess you both. We also speak to any children or other adults living in the house, to gain their views of potential placements. If placements are only community-based, just the Host providing the support is assessed.

## 5. Do I have to undertake the same assessment if I am currently supporting someone privately/it is a family member?

Yes, all our Hosts go through the same thorough assessment process to ensure all are safeguarded and appropriately matched and supported to provide short breaks and placements to people we support.

## 6. Do I have to have experience or qualifications to apply?

You do not need to have specific qualifications to become a Host. Hosts have a variety of life experiences, including caring for and supporting others. As long as you have the right attitude and approach and are willing to engage in the assessment process and ongoing training, that is what matters. Personal qualities such as having time and commitment, being reliable, and motivated to support others are what are required.

## 7. What training is provided?

All our Hosts undertake 'Children First' and Adult Safeguarding training. Further training and guidance is then provided to Hosts related specifically to the individual needs of the person they are supporting.

Once placements are set up, Hosts engage in ongoing communication and support with the Home Share Social Workers.

## 8. Are these placements paid?

This is not employment, rather it is a voluntary role. Hosts do receive an allowance in accordance with the level of support they offer. This allowance is tax exempt, in most cases, however it is the responsibility of the Host to declare their income to the Revenue and seek advice from professionals such as Citizens Information or personal accountants, as required, relating to your individual circumstance.

## 9. How will I be supported?

The Home Share Social Worker has a key role in supporting the Host, carrying out regular reviews to check-in and monitor the placements, and discuss any key issues relating to the Host's role. The Home Share Social Worker will be available to the Host for regular contact, to offer guidance and support. The Home Share Social Work team is also available on call out of hours to support with any emergencies or urgent issues.

## 10. Can the placements take place in the persons supported home?

No, placements are either in the Host's home or on day breaks in the community, they can not take place in the person supported's home.

## 11. As a Host, can I choose who I support?

Yes. The Home Share Social Worker will discuss with you who might be a suitable match for you, your home, family and lifestyle. We then do a series of introductions carried out over sufficient time to ensure everyone is happy with the arrangement. It is your choice whether this person is a good match for you.

## 12. Can I be a Host if I have a job?

Yes, you can have a job and be involved in other activities alongside being a Host. We consider your availability when matching you with the