

## Approval

Following receipt of the Link Social Workers assessment, the Approval Panel's main role is to provide recommendations and approval of individuals to the Home Sharing Scheme. All information shared with the Home Sharing Team is treated in the strictest of confidence.

## How often are people placed with Host Carers?

Breaks can be for a couple of hours, overnight, weekends or on a full-time basis. Each arrangement is negotiated around the Host Carer's availability and preference.

## Is there a payment for being a Host Carer?

This is a voluntary scheme, however Host Carer's are paid a tax free allowance.

## What support would I receive doing this?

The Home Sharing Team will be available to provide on-going support and supervision during the assessment, training process and throughout placements. Training is an essential and mandatory aspect of Home Sharing for host family's.

# Home Sharing

## Contact us:

### Home Sharing Team

1st Floor, 1D - 1F,  
The Atrium,  
Blackpool Retail Park,  
Blackpool, Cork  
Eircode: T23 T2VY

Phone: 086-0834461

Email: [homeshare@cope-foundation.ie](mailto:homeshare@cope-foundation.ie)



CHY 5288 | Charity Registration No. 20007584

# Home Sharing



Do you have  
room in your life  
and in your home?



## What is Home Sharing?

Home Sharing is a community-based service that provides both short breaks (respite) and full-time (shared living) placements to children and adults with an intellectual disability and/or autism. These breaks take place in the Host Carers home.

## Why are breaks important for people with a disability and their families?

Having a break from care giving can be of huge benefit to the care giver and their family. In addition, the person going on the break gets the opportunity to make new friends, widen their social circle, enjoy new experiences and to have a break away in a different environment.

## Who can apply to become a Host Carer?

Host Carers come from a wide variety of backgrounds and can be working, retired, with or without children, single or with a partner. Host Carers are fully vetted, assessed and trained volunteers who are carefully matched with each child or adult looking to avail of a short break or who require a full-time placement (also known as 'shared living').

## Types of 'Home Sharing'

### 'Short Break Host'

Short Break Hosts usually support one or two Guests separately for one or a number of short breaks per month. Arrangements are based on the Host's availability around work and other caring commitments as this is not generally the Hosts 's primary occupation.

### 'Contract Hosts'

Contract Hosts are assessed and approved as contract carers and commit to a number of overnight breaks per month for individuals with high support needs. Contract Hosts are contracted for 10 – 20 sessions per month for eleven months per year.

### 'Shared Living'

Shared Living Hosts are assessed and approved with a view to sharing their home with a person on a full-time basis with the responsibility as the main carer(s). The person may spend some time during the month with their own family or with another family but their main residence is with the Home Sharing shared living Host under this arrangement.

## What if I don't have any experience working with people who have an intellectual disability or autism?

It is not a requirement to have experience of working with people with a disability. Personal qualities such as being warm and caring, having time and commitment, being reliable and motivated to care are what are required.

## How are Host Carers assessed?

Once we have received your application, a member of the Home Sharing Team will meet with you to discuss the process. A Social Worker will visit the applicant's home between 3-6 times to get to know you and your family. A report will be compiled and shared with you. It will be then forwarded to the Approvals Panel.

## Vetting Process

All host families require Garda clearance, TUSLA clearance, Medical clearance and references. The Home Sharing Coordinator will guide you through this process.

## Training

You will be expected to attend a number of training nights on Home Sharing, Communication, Positive Behaviour Strategies, Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons and Keeping Safe In Your Home.

## Assessment

A Social Worker will visit the applicant's home between 3-6 times to get to know you and your family. A report will be compiled and shared with you. It will be then forwarded to the Approvals Committee.