

Homestay Hub

A private online marketplace for health care workers to find local accommodation

Homestay Hub Update



Homestay.com in response to the current housing and cost of living crisis is revolutionising the accommodation landscape, through the provision of its technology to facilitate a closed employee Homestay Hub. An initiative launched recently with the NHS provides a private homestay hub designed exclusively for NHS & Social Care employees to rent rooms to other NHS & Social Care employees. With a focus on convenience, affordability, and fostering a sense of community, the marketplace aims to streamline the process of finding affordable, comfortable and compatible housing solutions within health care organisations. Homestay.com, while not commissioned by the NHS to provide this service, were keen to support NHS staff by providing this dedicated platform.

Key features of NHS Homestay Hub include:

- Secure and Confidential Environment, where only Health Care employees can list or search for available rooms.
- Seamless Room Rental Experience, offering a request based booking process and advanced search filters together with video messaging, making it easy for employees to find suitable rooms within their organisation. With detailed listings, including amenities, house rules, and preferences, employees can make informed decisions to find their ideal accommodation.
- Cost-Effective Housing Solution, where renting rooms from fellow employees can provide significant cost savings compared to other traditional accommodation options. The NHS Homestay Hub promotes affordable alternatives by enabling employees to find housing within their budget while reducing commuting time and expenses.

About Homestay.com

- Homestay.com is an accommodation marketplace dedicated to the homestay travel experience. With more than 36,000 hosts offering places to stay across 150 countries, Homestay.com enables guests, professionals, students, interns to stay in the home of a local resident for long and short term stays. Focused as much on people as it is on places, Homestay.com puts hosts at the heart of amazing accommodation experiences. The company was founded in 2013 by Tom Kennedy, co-founder of Hostelworld.com and Debbie Flynn, a veteran of the education travel industry. Homestay.com is funded by Delta Partners Ltd.
- Homestay.com has adapted its technology to facilitate private Homestay Hubs. A homestay hub brings together like-minded people with shared interests who want to stay in each other's homes when they travel or relocate for work reasons. By connecting colleagues within the same organisation, or members with similar interests, Homestay.com's technology opens up convenient, affordable, sustainable and community-driven housing solutions.

HOMESTAY HUB UPDATE

Homestay Tour

With Ian Burden



NHS England South West's Head of Transformation Ian Burden embarked on a week-long tour of the country to help promote the Homestay service for NHS Staff.

The NHS Homestay service offers a secure platform where NHS staff can advertise a spare room(s) to other NHS staff and students. This provides an opportunity for householders to both bring in some extra cash under the government 'rent a room' scheme, but also to help their colleagues. For the guests, it allows for cheap and accessible accommodation options with the added benefit of sharing with someone who is likely to have a common understanding and a caring nature.

As part of his commitment to promoting the service to NHS staff in the South West, Ian travelled to Sussex, Kent, Liverpool and Kendal to find out what its like to rent a room through the scheme. Ian gave up his own time and resources to book and travel to four different homes over consecutive days.

As in many places across England, NHS staff, healthcare students and other key workers in the South West have really been struggling to find suitable and well-priced accommodation. That's damaging recruitment and retention at a time when we are already desperately short of key personnel.

That's why a regional team at NHS England has been working to improve things, in an age of high housing costs and in an area where putting spare rooms on AirBnB can be much more lucrative than offering them at prices affordable to local workers.

We've been developing a number of housing solutions to provide both short- and long-term rental opportunities. One route we have taken is to accept the support of a booking platform called Homestay.com.

Having been part of that regional team, personal circumstances mean I had the opportunity to test what's available via Homestay and to spread the word about wider accommodation offers for staff.

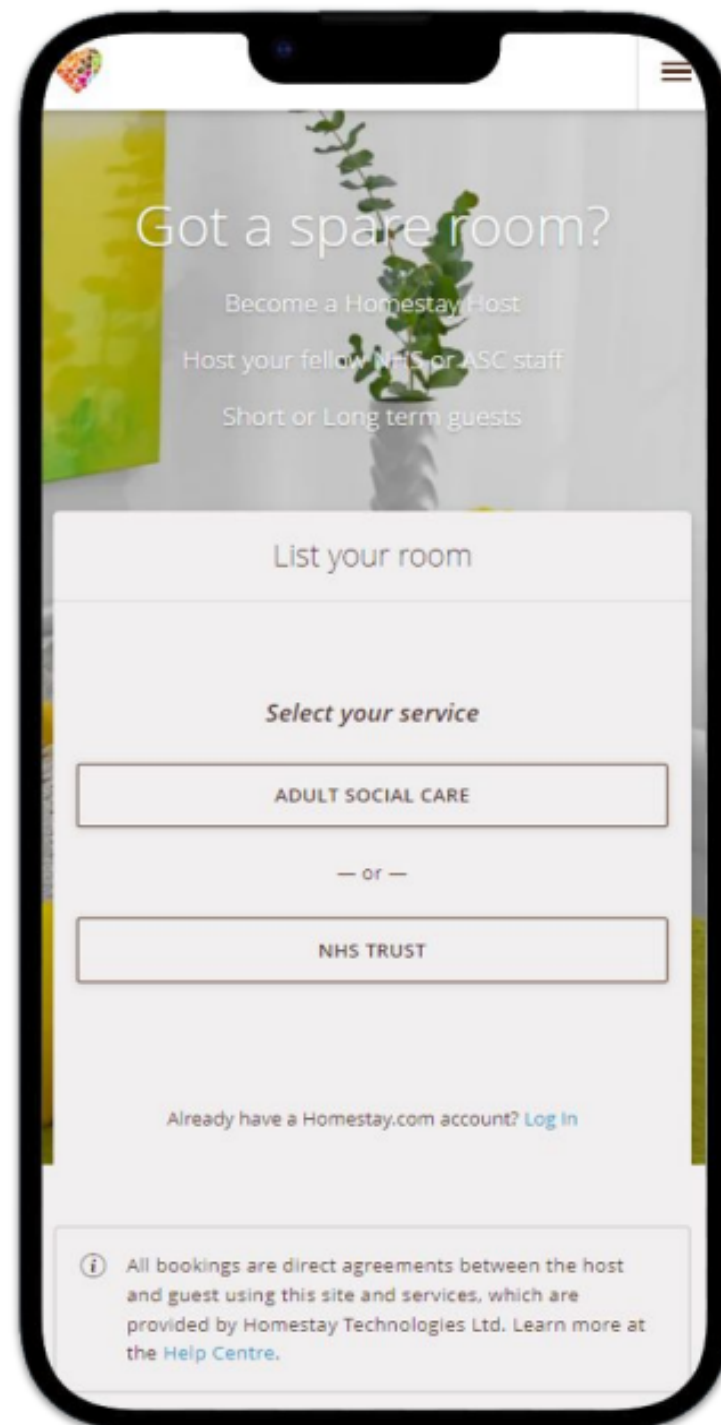
The Homestay team opened up the platform to also include Social Care staff, so both NHS and Social Care staff can list their spare room and then rent that room to a healthcare colleague.

It's perfect, because it means staff can earn some extra money, others can find somewhere to stay over, and for both the host and the person renting it is with people with the same general outlook and caring nature; it's in the DNA of healthcare staff to want to look after others. For Ian's full report on his journey please visit:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/2023/07/10/homestay-tour/>



Homestay Hub Sign Up



- ✓ Promoting the [Homestay Hub](#) to NHS and Social Care employees will grow host sign ups.
- ✓ This will provide a valuable accommodation resource for both international and domestic staff searching for a short or longer term accommodation solution.
- ✓ [Sign up](#) directly as an NHS or Social Care employee





Get Your Organisation Involved!

For any further information please visit [NHS.homestay.com](https://www.nhs.uk/homestay)



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