

# HOMESTAY GUIDANCE FOR VISITORS

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## 4. Disclaimers

### KEY POINTS

**No checks have been undertaken by Westerham or Sevenoaks Councils on local homestay properties, nor of the accommodation providers. The above mentioned therefore do not guarantee the quality of accommodation, nor do they accept any responsibility for the safety of visitors, accommodation providers or their respective property and belongings.**

## 1. What is Homestay?

A homestay (or home-let) scheme enables residents to let out a single room, multiple rooms or their entire home to visitors short term.

## 2. The Benefits of Homestay

Homestay offers benefits to both residents and visitors:

- Visitors have a wider selection of accommodation to choose from
- Visitors get a better feel for local life in the area
- Visitors benefit from more homely, more affordable, accommodation rather than the corporate hotel offer
- Residents can play a direct role in major events such as the Olympics
- Residents can meet interesting people from all over the world
- Residents can share their love and enthusiasm for the local area

A homestay scheme also benefits the local economy by:

- Increasing the accommodation offer in the local area
- Filling the gap in accommodation supply, particularly the short term gap created by big events which temporarily increase the number of visitors to an area
- Encouraging visitors into less typical visitor areas where there are fewer hotels

### **3. Guidance for Visitors Renting Homestay Accommodation**

#### **3a. Your Entitlements as a Homestay Guest**

As a guest in homestay accommodation, you can reasonably expect the following:

- Clean, furnished, private rooms with lock/bolt/
- Hot water at all times
- Access to either private or shared bathroom with toilet, bath/shower, washbasin and hot and cold running water.
- Information on arrival/ departure arrangements
- Details of local transport and parking options
- A key / access code to the property
- Windows that open
- Space for clothes storage
- Details of fire escape

#### **3b. Your Responsibilities as a House Guest**

- To respect the host, property and house rules
- To pay agreed price, on time
- To leave the property as you find it
- To admit to any damages caused

#### **3c. Potential Risks of Choosing Homestay Accommodation**

- Poor accommodation standards
- Personal safety
- Risk to property

#### **3d. Where to find Homestay Accommodation**

There are a number of agencies operating in East London and the wider London region providing homestay accommodation. The local authorities are aware of the following agencies. Please note that these agencies have not been vetted, nor their properties inspected. The services provided by these agencies, therefore, come with NO GUARANTEE or recommendation:

## **London Host Families**

<http://www.londonhostfamilies.com/>

Specialises purely in host family accommodation in London for those working or studying English and for individuals on business courses

Saunders House  
52-53 The Mall  
London W5 3TA  
Tel: 00 44 (0)203 178 8371 or 00 44 (0)203 178 8372  
Email: [info@londonhostfamilies.com](mailto:info@londonhostfamilies.com)

## **UK Homestay**

<http://www.uk-homestay.com/>

Available to both students and non-students looking for homestay, host family accommodation or just cheap accommodation in London.

Britannia Student Services  
1 Rathbone Place (off Oxford Street)  
London W1T 1HH  
Tel: 00 44 (0)20 7436 7738  
Email: [info@uk-homestay.com](mailto:info@uk-homestay.com)

## **HFS London**

<http://www.hfslondon.com/>

Provide accommodation to visitors, international professionals, tourists or visitors requiring accommodation of over two weeks in London

HFS London  
558 Commercial Road  
London E14 7JD  
Tel: 00 44 (0) 20 3069 2048  
Email: [info@hfslondon.com](mailto:info@hfslondon.com)

## **UK Guest**

<http://www.ukguests.co.uk/>

Homestay accommodation for travellers and students

UKguests.com Ltd  
Suite 314, Legacy Business Centre  
2A Ruckholt Road  
London E10 5NP  
Tel: 00 44 (0) 208 558 4466 or 0800 232 1702  
Email: [info@UKguests.co.uk](mailto:info@UKguests.co.uk)

## **Room for Travellers**

<http://www.roomft.com/>

Not a letting agency, but a social networking website of homeowners looking to earn extra cash and Tourists and Visitors looking for cheap rooms

RFT Global Ltd  
88 Crawford Street  
London  
W1H 2EJ  
\*\*no telephone number\*\*  
Email: [info@roomft.com](mailto:info@roomft.com)

## **Homestay London 2012**

<http://homestaylondon2012.com>

This agency operated in Beijing in 2008 and has now turned its attention to London homeowners, who may want to let out a property or a room during the 2012 Games.

\*\*No contact details available – enquiries must be made via a ‘general contact’ form:

<http://homestaylondon2012.com/general-contact/>

[Londonhomestay.co.uk](http://Londonhomestay.co.uk)

<http://www.londonhomestay.co.uk/>

Visit London has a list of homestay accommodation agencies on its website:

<http://www.visitlondon.com/category/accommodation/accommodation-agency>

## **3e Fair Pricing**

Authorities are keen to protect consumers from over-inflated prices and inappropriate trading practices.

The 2012 UK Event Industry Fair Pricing and Practice Charter encourages businesses to commit to fair pricing and provides a means to do so. The charter sets out guidelines and criteria to abide by. While not legally-binding, it is a statement of intent. Some accommodation providers have signed up to this charter.

[http://vlstatic.com/business2/assets/news/FINAL\\_FFPC.pdf](http://vlstatic.com/business2/assets/news/FINAL_FFPC.pdf)

## **4. DISCLAIMERS**

### **Non-Liability**

- The VisitWesterham website is providing an information service only and does not recommend or endorse any of the agencies or accommodation providers advertising Homestay accommodation, none of whom are associated with the website or the local or district Councils. As such, the website or the Councils are not responsible for any breakdown in relations or problems, which might arise in letting out properties through signposted agencies. Further, the website or the Councils do not accept liability for any loss or injury suffered.
- The Councils take only a limited role in promoting the scheme to homeowners, for example at summer events.
- The Councils have not procured any Homestay Accommodation services by way of a works, or supplies contract nor do the Councils benefit financially in any way by signposting homeowners to agencies and prospective visitors.