

Choosing a Care Home

2018/19

For Later Life Care in England

- Easy to follow
- Tips and Examples
- Jargon Buster



Choosing a Care/Nursing home

Thinking about moving into permanent care but not sure what to look for, what or who to ask? It's worth starting with what is important to you and may help to consider these key points.

The Building

Location – do you want to be closer to family, friends. How easy is it for a spouse/partner or other loved ones to visit?

Size – Would you be more comfortable in a larger bedded property or smaller home with fewer people

Local facilities – Do you want a paper delivered daily or need access to a bus, is there a resident hairdresser, chiropodist?

Access – Can you or your visitors, pets move around easily? Lifts, stairs, wheel chair access. Public transport routes close by? Do you want wifi or a telephone in your room, can you get a signal on the mobile?

Visitors – Are there any restrictions, can they stay over, is there a visiting time, can children visit and/or stay?

Grounds - Are they accessible, do you need your own space, is there somewhere to sit outside, does the home grow their own veg for the menu, can you help tend a garden or have a patio area or a pet?

Security – are the grounds secure, what are the safeguards for you personally, your possessions and visitors.



First impressions

Does it feel clean, smell fresh?

Are the rooms light and airy? Are there en-suite facilities if you want them?

Is there enough space? Do you have private outdoor space?

Can you have your own belongings in your room?

Do the other residents seem happy, are they busy and motivated, are there any activities - is that what you want?

Is there somewhere quiet to go for reading, prayer if you need that?

Are the staff welcoming and friendly, are they interacting with the residents and seem interested?

Meeting a care need

The home should assess your care needs to make sure that they can care for you before agreeing to a move but you may want to check;

- What happens if my needs change in the future?
- How many members of staff per resident? How does this ratio change from day to Night time?
- Do the staff change frequently, how are they trained?
- What specialist equipment is available should you need it?
- What % of the staff are agency workers?
- What % of staff speak your language, how are your religious and cultural beliefs considered?
- How will specific needs be met; pets, church, pub!?
- What's the menu like, can your guests use the facilities?
- Do you have any special dietary requirements, can you prepare food in your room, have a small fridge or tea making facilities?
- Is there a manager or nurse on site, can you have your own GP
- Has the home had a [CQC](#) report?



Funding care in a home

Everyone has a right to choose where they live but don't forget to ask yourself "Can I afford this?" as your preference may come at a price and once you have found the right place it will become your home. A move in the future can be devastating for everyone if you cannot afford to live there forever.

- Will I be funding this care? Do I need financial advice?
- Would you be eligible for NHS or Local Authority funding?
- How is a funded nursing care payment invoiced in a registered nursing home?
- Check benefit entitlement as your circumstances are changing
- Request a care needs assessment from the Local Authority.

Check with the Local Authority that you have an 'eligible need' and that the home does not cost more than they would pay for this type of care as it is possible that they will NOT cover the cost if you run out of money.

Contracts

- Is there a trial period?
- Can you see a copy of the contract; does it include everything you need or will there be extra charges for things like transport, hair, nail care, outings.
- What are the contractual fees during hospital stay or periods following death or a move?
- Top ups – if your funds reduce will the home accept Local Authority funding without the need for a top and put that in writing?

If you need more help and/or advice please [Search for a CAN Member](#), contact your [Local Authority](#) or speak to a care adviser who has passed the [Care Adviser Award](#)

