

Factsheet 10a – 06 October 2010 (2 Pages)

Is a care home right for me?

Part of the care home series:

Fact sheet 10b, **Choosing a care home – what should I ask?**

Fact sheet 10c, **I've chosen a Care Home – what happens next?**

Fact sheet 10d, **Paying for Short Term/Respite Residential Care**

Fact sheet 10e, **Paying for Long Term Residential Care**

If you have been finding it difficult to manage at home you might be thinking about moving into a care home. Whether you are arranging your support/care yourself or with help, the care home you choose should meet your needs and be somewhere you want to live – even if it's only for a short while. We also understand that deciding to move into a care home is a very difficult decision to make and you may want to consider other options.

Before you make a decision, you should look into all of your options:

- We may be able to help you to stay in your own home by caring for you in your home. This kind of support/care is called 'domiciliary care'.
- We could also advise you on other kinds of housing that could better suit your needs, such as sheltered accommodation.
- Please call **Care Direct on 0845 1551 007** who will be able to advise you on all of your options.

There are 3 main types of care home:

1. Residential Care Homes provide support as if you were in your own home – helping you with personal support/care tasks such as getting up, washing, dressing and going to the toilet.

2. Nursing Care Homes provide support/care for people with complex needs who need the care of a qualified nurse. These homes are required by law to have a qualified nurse on duty 24 hours a day.

3. Dual Registered Homes provide both residential and nursing care. If you choose one of these homes, you won't need to move if your condition changes. These homes also enable couples with different needs to stay together in the same home.

Some homes also provide support to individuals with specific needs, for example mental health needs.

If you have serious health difficulties you may be entitled to fully funded NHS care in a nursing home. If you believe this to be the case you may wish to contact Care Direct on 0845 1551 007 who will be able to offer further advice.

Residential care homes and nursing homes are registered and inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), www.cqc.org.uk. They can provide you with inspection reports or lists of care homes. Tel. 03000 616161 or email enquiries.southwest@cqc.org.uk

Your stay in a care home must be paid for in some way. As we realise that every person's situation is unique we carefully consider each request for financial support by following the government's rules on charging CRAG (Charging for Residential Accommodation Guidance)

If you have savings over the capital threshold (currently £23,250) you will not be eligible for financial assistance.

If you think you may need financial support from us we can talk about your needs, and we'll recommend the care and support that we think would be most suitable for you. You may like to have a relative or friend with you during these discussions and with your permission, we may also need information about you from other people, such as your doctor.

If we think that you are eligible for support from us and a care home is the best place to meet your needs, you have the legal right to choose any care home – as long the home is suitable for your agreed support/care needs and a place is available at a cost that does not exceed what we would usually pay.

A financial assessment will be conducted to establish how much you will have to pay towards the cost of your support/care. This is a means tested assessment which takes into account your capital resources and income.

If you have any further questions please contact **Care Direct 0845 1551 007**

Further factsheets can be found online at www.devon.gov.uk/factsheets

A large print version of this factsheet is available on www.devon.gov.uk/largeprint-factsheets but if you would like it in a different format such as Braille or audio, or in a different language, please contact our Customer Service Centre on 0845 155 1015 or email customer@devon.gov.uk.

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