

Moving into a Care Home

Factsheet 10b – 24 July 2007 (2 Pages)

Part of the Care Home series (10a, 10b, 10c and 2b)

Moving into a care home is a big life change, is it the only option?

If you have been finding it difficult to manage at home, you might be considering moving into a care home; however it is important to remember that there are various options. We may be able to help you to continue to live in your own home or advise you on housing that would better suit your needs, such as sheltered accommodation.

There are two main types of care home:

- 1. Residential Care Homes** provide support as if you were in your own home, and help with personal care such as getting up, washing, dressing and going to the toilet.
- 2. Nursing Care Homes** provide care for people with complex needs who require the skills of a qualified nurse. They are required by law to have a qualified nurse on duty 24 hours a day.

Some care homes provide both residential and nursing care. You may choose a home like this so that you do not need to move if your condition changes. They also enable couples with different needs to stay together in the same home.

Commission for Social Care Inspection

Residential care homes and nursing homes are registered and inspected by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), www.csci.org.uk They can provide you with inspection reports or lists of care homes. You can contact them on: **Tel. 01364 651800 CSCI Devon Area Office**

Are you eligible for our help?

Every person's situation is unique, and we carefully consider each request for support. For more information about Fair Access to Care (FACS) - in other words our eligibility criteria, the guidelines used to assess people's needs, please read our **Factsheet 1, Assessment and Fair Access to Care** or telephone **Care Direct 0845 1551 007** for a personal explanation.

If you think you may need financial support from us we will arrange for someone to talk to you about your needs, and recommend the care and support that is most suitable for you. There is no charge for this. You can have relative or friend present if you want. With your permission, we may need to ask for information about you from other people, such as your doctor.

If we agree 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 provided that a place is available and we agree that the home is suitable for your care needs. The home must not cost more than we usually pay for the care you need, unless someone else can pay the difference. If someone else can no longer pay the difference then you may have to move to another care home.

See **Factsheet 10c, Paying for residential care**. You may visit as many homes as you wish before you decide. You may find our **Factsheet 10a, What to look for in a Care Home** helpful.

If you are paying for your own home fees you would be well advised to get independent financial advice.

When you have found a care home that meets your needs, you or your representative will sign the

Individual Service Contract. This is a three way agreement between you, social services and the care home. It contains details about your care, the care home fees, who you have to pay, and your rights in the home. You should not have to sign any other contract issued by the home. They may, however, ask you to sign an agreement that sets out the rules of the home of the services provided.

Your contract covers accommodation, heating, lighting, food and all your basic requirements. You will also receive a personal expense allowance for daily items like toiletries, birthday presents, leisure activities and outings. The home should not ask you for any money except for additional facilities or services that you have chosen to purchase. If you are in any doubt, ask your care manager to explain.

The first 4 weeks of your stay will be a trial period. This gives you time to get used to the home and see if it meets your needs. After this period we will ask if you wish to stay. You may feel that an alternative home would be more suitable but this must still be able to meet your needs, or you may wish to return home. We will review your needs and decide together how they can best be met. At least once a year, or more often if necessary, a reviewing officer will contact you and the staff of the home to see if you are happy in the home and getting the help that you need. You can ask for a review at any time if your situation changes.

Cancelling your stay or going away

- If a stay in a home has been arranged for you and, for whatever reason, you change your mind, we will need at least two days notice. Otherwise you will have to pay for the two days. If you go on **holiday** or stay with friends, your room will be kept for you for up to three weeks. If you are going for longer than this, your room can still be kept for you, but you must let us know.
- If you go into **hospital** your room will usually be kept for you for up to six weeks, sometimes even longer. Do not worry if you have to stay in hospital, we will make any necessary arrangements to make sure you are cared for when you leave.

Making your wishes known

Please make sure that your home is aware of any religious or cultural requirements that you would wish to be observed, and who should be contacted in the event of your death. Arrangements will be made for your funeral if there is nobody else to do this for you.

Changing Your Home

If you want to change homes you can do so after four weeks notice. We will do our best to help you find another home. Sometimes the home may be unable to continue to provide the care that you need, but the homeowner cannot demand that you leave unless we agree. You have the right to choose a home outside of the County and still receive financial and other support from us. If you wish to move into a care home in Devon **from outside of the County**, your current local authority will be responsible for your care, please contact them for more information.

See also: Factsheet 10a, **What to look for in a Care Home**
Factsheet 10c, **Paying for residential care**

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 tape, 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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