

# A Checklist for Choosing a Care Home

It is worth taking the time to visit a few care homes, look at their brochures and talk to their staff and your family before you make a decision. Make a list of questions to ask before you visit. Don't be embarrassed to ask a lot of questions – this is an important move for you. Talk to the other residents. Ask if you can spend a day there. Most homes offer a "trial period", and if you change your mind later on and you want to move to another care home, then that is your choice. However, the contractual arrangements for placements made by social care services may differ and it is worth clarifying this point at the beginning. Similarly, if you are paying for the stay in a care home yourself you need to check the terms of the contract first. These are some of the questions that you may wish to ask.

**Name of Care Home 1:** -----

**Name of Care Home 2:** -----

**Name of Care Home 3:** -----

**Name of Care Home 4:** -----

## Location and General Arrangements

Questions	Answers			
	Care Home 1	Care Home 2	Care Home 3	Care Home 4
How will you be able to keep in touch with friends and relatives?				
Does the care home's registration match your needs?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
When would you need to make the decision about giving up your own home?				
Are there any restrictions? For example, on visiting and smoking.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Can you come and go as you please?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Are there shops nearby?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Is public transport available?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
How can you participate in decisions about the running of the care home?				
Ask to see the home's latest inspection report. (Or you can look at a copy on the Care Quality Commission's website at <a href="http://www.cqc.org.uk">www.cqc.org.uk</a> )	Reaction:	Reaction:	Reaction:	Reaction:
Other questions				

<b>Accommodation Arrangements</b>				
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>			
	<b>Care Home 1</b>	<b>Care Home 2</b>	<b>Care Home 3</b>	<b>Care Home 4</b>
Is there a choice of accommodation arrangements – single or shared rooms?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If you are sharing, is this your free choice?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Have you met the other occupant?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Where are the bathrooms and toilets?				
Does the care home have a lift and wheelchair access?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Can you take some of your own furniture to the care home?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Can you decorate your own room if you wish to?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Is the care home clean and well maintained?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Does the care home accept pets?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a telephone which you can use in private?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Other questions				

<b>Care Arrangements</b>				
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>			
	<b>Care Home 1</b>	<b>Care Home 2</b>	<b>Care Home 3</b>	<b>Care Home 4</b>
Do you feel comfortable with the staff's ability to care for your needs?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Can the care home meet your religious, cultural and dietary needs?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Are residents encouraged to be independent?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Will you have some choice in meal arrangements and menus?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Are there facilities for you to have a cup of tea or make a	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

snack?				
Can you still have your favourite meal?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Can you choose when you have a bath?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Are laundry facilities available?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Is there an extra cost?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
How will you get help with shopping if you need this?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Other questions				

## Health Arrangements

Questions	Answers			
	Care Home 1	Care Home 2	Care Home 3	Care Home 4
Can you keep your own Doctor?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
What will happen if your health deteriorates?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Will you be able to see your Care Plan and will you be involved in compiling it?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Other questions				



## Social and Leisure Arrangements

Questions	Answers			
	Care Home 1	Care Home 2	Care Home 3	Care Home 4
Consider your current leisure activities – can arrangements be made for these to continue?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Does the care home arrange activities, outings, and provide facilities for hobbies?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Can visitors call at any time?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Can you entertain visitors in your room or is there a private facility available?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Will you get on with the other residents?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Other questions				
<b>Terms and Conditions</b>				
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>			
	<b>Care Home 1</b>	<b>Care Home 2</b>	<b>Care Home 3</b>	<b>Care Home 4</b>
Does the home have a brochure detailing objectives, life-styles and practices?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Ask for a copy of the "Service User's Guide"	Given? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Given? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Given? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Given? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If you are privately funded, ask for a copy of the Terms and Conditions or Contract to take away and study.	Given? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Given? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Given? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Given? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Compare the terms with the recommendations of the booklet “Fair terms for care” published by the Office of Fair Trading and available on <a href="http://www.offt.gov.uk">www.offt.gov.uk</a>				
Other questions				
<b>Make a particular check of:</b>				
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>			
	<b>Care Home 1</b>	<b>Care Home 2</b>	<b>Care Home 3</b>	<b>Care Home 4</b>
What is included in the fees and what are extras?				
How do fees increase with time or additional needs?				

Is there a “trial period” and what are the terms?				
If you wish to leave in the future, how much notice is required?				
What happens if your funding changes later on from private to social services?				
What happens if your health deteriorates?				
Other questions				

**Other Notes**

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying most of the page. It is intended for the user to write their 'Other Notes'.