



Care Home Funding

Information for people thinking about moving into
a care home

This information is produced by Leicestershire County Council for guidance only

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Definitions used in this booklet

Capital and Savings	Financial resources that are available for you to use, i.e. Buildings, land, national savings certificates, stocks and shares, savings, some trust funds. Your main home, and any other property owned, is regarded as capital for residential care.
Council	Leicestershire County Council.
Deferred Payment Scheme	A national scheme whereby you can delay paying for your care and support, or part of it, until a later date (often after your death), provided you meet the eligibility criteria for the scheme.
Deferred Payment Agreement	The formal agreement between you and the Council which outlines how you will delay paying for your care and support, or part of it.
Deputy	Individual authorised by the Court of Protection to manage the affairs of someone who lacks the mental capacity to manage their own affairs.
Eligible Needs	Those of yours or your Carers' needs which are eligible for Council-funded care and support.
Extra Care	Your own home, in a development with other older people, with additional care and support available on site.
Guidance	Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act 2014 by the Department of Health.
Legal Charge	A legal document held by the Land Registry showing that the Council has a claim on your property.
Light Touch Assessment	In some circumstances, the Council may choose to treat a person as if a financial assessment had been carried out. This might be where the Council is satisfied that you can afford, and that you will continue to be able to afford, any charges due or you prefer not to disclose any information.
Main Home	You can have only one main home at any one time. This is the home where you normally live.
Personal Budget	Money that is allocated to you or your Carer by the Council to pay for care or support to meet their eligible needs. You may be required to contribute some money to your personal budget which will be added to the amount paid by the Council to make the total budget to meet your eligible needs.

Power of Attorney (Enduring or Lasting)	A legal process that lets you appoint one or more people (known as Attorneys) to help you to make decisions or to make decisions on your behalf.
Property Disregard	When your main home, or other property, is not counted as part of your capital and savings for your financial assessment.
Provider	Organisation or person providing your care services.
Representative	Person nominated by you to assist you with the financial assessment process.
Service User	Person receiving care services provided under the Care Act 2014.
Supported Living	An alternative to residential care or living with family that enables adults with disabilities to live in their own home, with the help they need to be independent.
Supersession	If you are getting a benefit from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and your circumstances change, the DWP can decide to change the original decision that was made on your claim. This is called a supersession.
Top-up fee	The difference between the actual costs of the care provided by your chosen Provider and the amount that the Council has set in a Personal Budget to meet your eligible needs.
Third/3rd Party	Someone who agrees to pay the top-up fee for you. This may be a relative, friend or charity.

Introduction

The information in this booklet is to help people who are thinking about moving permanently into a residential care home. It gives information on a range of issues and frequently asked questions.

The decision to move into a care home can often be a difficult one to make. Before making this decision it is important to make sure that this is the right type of care for you. You should look at all the options available before you decide that permanent residential care is the best solution to your circumstances.

Other options available which may be helpful to you include:

- **Assistive technology.** This means equipment that helps you carry out daily activities and manage more easily and safely in your own home. Examples include electronic medicine dispensers, memory prompts, “big button” telephones or remote controls and pendant alarms for wearing around your neck or wrist. It also includes equipment that can detect potential hazards in your home, such as a fire or flood, or that can alert a carer or the emergency services in the event of a fall or seizure.
- **Home care services.** This is care provided in your own home by paid care workers to help you with your daily life. It is also known as domiciliary care. Home care workers are usually employed by an independent agency and the service may be arranged by the Council or by you (or someone acting on your behalf).
- **Reablement services.** A way of helping you remain independent, by giving you the opportunity to relearn or regain some of the skills for daily living that may have been lost as a result of illness, accident or disability. It is similar to rehabilitation, which helps people recover from physical or mental illness. The Council offers a reablement service for a short time that helps you to work out if you are able to continue to live independently in your own home.
- **Shared Lives.** This is a type of care for people who are eligible for Council funded care but are unable to live independently or who may not wish to live alone. Shared Lives Carers offer care and support in their own home to older people, people with mental health problems or people with physical or learning disabilities.
- **Extra Care services:** This is similar to sheltered housing but with additional care and support available for people with illnesses or disabilities who wish to have a home of their own. This service may be an option if living alone at home is difficult but you do not want to move into a residential care home.
- **Respite services.** A service giving Carers a break by providing short-term care for the person with care needs either in their own home or in a residential setting. It can mean a few hours during the day or evening or a longer-term break.
- **Supported Living.** An alternative to residential care or living with family that enables adults with disabilities to live in their own home, with the help they need to be

independent. It allows people to choose where they want to live, who they want to live with, how they want to be supported, and what happens in their home.

Please contact the Council's Customer Service Centre on 0116 305 0004 if you require more information on, or would like to see if you are eligible for these services.

You should also find out whether you can get any financial help with the cost of the care that you are considering. The Council has established an independent financial advice pathway and you can find details in the financial advice section of this booklet.

The Council will assess your care needs to see whether you meet the eligibility criteria for residential care; we will then do a financial assessment with you to work out how much you should pay towards the cost of your care and how much the Council should pay. We will comply with the Care Act 2014 and related regulations.

We recommend that your care needs are assessed by the Council even if you can afford to pay the whole cost of your care. If you think you might need financial assistance from us in the future, perhaps when you no longer have enough savings, it is important that we have agreed that you are eligible for the type of care that you are planning to have. If you have not done this you may need to move to alternative accommodation when you require financial help from us.

The financial assessment takes the view that people should only be required to pay what they can afford towards the cost of their care. You will need to complete a form to give information about your financial circumstances so that we can work out how much you should pay. Your financial assessment will normally be reviewed each year but can be reviewed at any time if there is a change in your financial circumstances.

If you have capital and savings over £23,250, excluding the value of your main home

If you want to move into a residential care home **and** you have capital and savings over £23,250 excluding the value of your home, you will have to pay the full cost of your care to the Provider (care home).

When your capital and savings, excluding the value of your home, reduces to around £25,000 you should contact the Council's Customer Service Centre on 0116 305 0004. We will then assess, or review your eligibility for care services and undertake a financial assessment. This is in order to calculate how much you should pay towards your care when your capital has reduced to below £23,250.

If you own your own home but do not have additional capital and savings over £23,250

If you want to move into a residential care home **and**

- You own your own home **BUT**
- Your other capital and savings are less than £23,250

You will have to pay the full cost of your care to the Provider (care home) but you may be eligible for the Council's Deferred Payments Scheme to help you pay the care fees whilst postponing the need to sell your home. More information is available later in this booklet.

Legal responsibility to make decisions

To talk about financial assessments you need to have the ability to make decisions for yourself; we call this mental capacity.

If you have mental capacity but would like someone else to help you make decisions or to act on your behalf you can apply for a Power of Attorney. Information and forms can be found on the internet at: [GOV.UK: Power of attorney - overview](https://www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney-overview)

The Council recommends that you consider the future and the possibility that you may lose mental capacity whilst receiving care home services. We would encourage you to appoint an Attorney who can make decisions on your behalf if you become unable to do so in the future.

If you are supporting someone who does not have the mental capacity to make financial decisions they must have a **registered** Enduring Power of Attorney or Lasting Power of Attorney or a Deputyship from the Court of Protection who can act for them.

If a family member wishes to act for someone without mental capacity but does not have the legal power to do so they can apply for a Deputyship. Information and forms can be found on the internet at: [GOV.UK: Become a deputy - overview](https://www.gov.uk/become-a-deputy-overview)

Whilst an Attorney / Deputy application is being processed the Council may pay the cost of care to the Provider and issue invoices to you for the resulting debt. Once the Attorney /

Deputy application is awarded, the Council will stop this arrangement and the Attorney / Deputy must arrange to pay the Provider and the outstanding debt to the Council.

Financial Advice

If you are planning for your care and support needs for the future, it is important to get the right financial advice as you will be expected to contribute to the cost of your care service. The cost of care can be high so it's really important that you get good advice on how you can best meet these costs.

The Council has an agreement with some organisations to provide free financial advice; you can use the Council's website to contact these organisations who will explain to you what financial advice is given for free and what advice you would need to pay for. The Council is not responsible for any information or advice provided by these organisations.

If you wish to find your own financial advice we recommend that you use an advisor or company that is [registered with the Financial Services Authority](#).

How will we work out what type of residential care you need?

When we assess your care needs we will use the national eligibility framework under The Care Act 2014 to find out if you have any needs for care and support which are eligible for Council services or support. If you do have any of these needs we will work with you to identify how your needs can best be met. If your needs are best met by a place in a residential care home we will work out with you the type of residential care you need. We will also make sure that all your assessed needs can be met by the home that you are considering moving to.

If your assessment shows that you have nursing care needs, you may need to consider placement in a residential nursing home. If you move into a residential care home and then develop health care needs they will normally be met through services provided by NHS community nursing.

NHS funded Continuing Care

If you have high levels of nursing care needs you may be eligible for 100% NHS funding. The NHS will need to assess whether you are eligible for this funding.

The Council will be able to advise you about Continuing Care funding; contact the Council's Customer Service Centre who will help you to arrange an assessment.

How the Council works out how much to pay for your residential care

The Council uses categories, called bands, to determine how much they should pay for your residential care. A summary of the bands is included here. If you would like more information please ask your Adult Social Care worker.

Band No	Category	Description
1	Older people	People with a degree of disability / frailty (physical, sensory and / or mental) that can be associated with their age. They may be able to carry out some personal tasks independently but are in need of general assistance in order to maintain a range of daily living functions, including supervision and/or assistance with mobility.
2	People with mental ill health / drug alcohol dependency	People whose ability to live independently or semi-independently in the community is significantly affected by clinically diagnosed mental ill health / drug or alcohol dependency. They are likely to require support in the maintenance of treatment in respect of their mental health / substance misuse.
3	Dependent Older People	Older people whose needs are greater than those defined in Band 1. These people will be unable to complete many personal care tasks themselves.
4	Learning Disability	People whose ability to live independently or semi-independently in the community is affected because of a learning disability. They are likely to require support, supervision and/or assistance in performing all main personal care tasks.
5	Highly Dependent People / Physical Disability	People (adults of all ages) who have a substantial and permanent physical and/or sensory disability who will frequently need specially adapted facilities. It includes older people who are suffering from the effects of mental ill health where the associated behaviour requires considerable management and support. Band 5 may also include those people with an acquired brain injury.

What if I want a care home that is more expensive than the banded rates?

If you need care and support to be provided in residential or nursing care, extra care or supported living, the Council must make sure that you are offered at least one place that can be paid for within the Council's banded rates. This means that we must offer an affordable option.

Top-Up Arrangements

If you choose a more expensive accommodation than the amount within the Council's banded rates, you may have the option to make a Top-Up payment. The Top-Up payment is the difference between the actual costs of the care and support from the chosen Provider (care home) and the banded rate that the Council has calculated for your needs.

You may have the option to use a "**First Party Top-Up**" arrangement. This is where you can pay the extra cost. You can do this if:

- You are subject to a 12-week property disregard OR
- You have a DPA in place with the Council. The terms of the DPA agreement will include details of the top-up arrangement and if the top-up payments are also deferred OR
- You are receiving accommodation provided under S117 of the Mental Health Act.

If you do not meet those criteria one or more 3rd parties could pay the top-up for you. This is called a "**3rd Party Top-up**" arrangement. 3rd Parties can be a relative, friend or charity, and they will need to have a contract with the Council confirming the arrangement

- The 3rd Party is advised to take appropriate independent financial advice before entering into the 3rd Party Agreement.
- The person making the top-up will need to meet the additional cost of the placement for the full duration of your stay.
- If there is a breakdown in top-up payments the Council may have to make alternative arrangements to meet your needs. This means you may have to move to another home.
- The Council will ensure that the alternative is suitable, meets your eligible needs and is affordable within the Council's banded rate.
- Before considering a move the Council will carry out a new assessment with you which will take account of your wellbeing.

You can ask your social care worker for the separate 3rd party information sheet for more details.

The Financial Assessment

You will be asked to complete a financial assessment form giving details of your income, savings and capital so that the Council can calculate how much you can afford to pay towards the cost of your care.

If you do not want to tell us about details of your income, savings and capital you will need to pay the full cost of your care.

We will review your financial assessment every year to ensure that the details we hold for you are accurate. If your circumstances change at any other time, you should let us know as it may affect the amount you pay towards the cost of your care.

When we have worked out how much you should pay towards the cost of your care we will invoice you 4 weekly in arrears. The Council prefer you to pay by direct debit.

What Income and Capital is taken into account?

Most of your income and capital will be included when the Council works out how much you can afford to pay towards the cost of your care.

Capital

Capital includes property, land, stocks, shares, bonds, savings, cash etc. Some types of capital are not included in the assessment; for example

- Your personal possessions
- The surrender value of any life insurance or annuity
- Trust funds that were awarded for personal injury or criminal injuries compensation.

Capital normally belongs to the person whose name it is held in. If the capital is held in joint names only your share will be included in the financial assessment.

If you own a property

If you are the only owner of your main home the Council will usually take the full value of the property into account when they add up the value of your Capital and Savings and calculate how much you should pay towards your residential care service.

If someone still occupies your property the value will not be included in your capital if they are:

- Your partner, former partner or civil partner, except where they are estranged.
- A lone parent who is your estranged or divorced partner.
- Your relative or member of your family who is:
Aged 60 or over, or

Your child, including adopted, fostered and step children, who is under 18 years old, or is incapacitated.

The Council may not count your property as capital if the person who lives there gave up their home to look after you and has nowhere else to live. However if the property becomes empty or is sold the Council will do a new financial assessment to include the value of the property.

12 week Property Disregard

If you own a property with someone else and the co-owners do not meet the conditions above, your share of the property value will be added to your capital and assets.

If you own more than one property, the value of all the properties will usually be included in your capital and assets unless any of the above conditions are met.

If you own a property which you do not live in as your main home, the Council will add the value of that property to your capital and assets when we calculate how much you should pay towards your residential care service.

If you want to move into a residential care home and:

- You own your own home AND
- Your other capital and savings are less than £23,250

You may be eligible for a 12 week property disregard when you first enter a care home. This means that the Council will not include the value of your home when they calculate how much capital and assets you have for the first 12 weeks of your stay.

The 12 week property disregard does not apply to short stays, respite stays or reablement stays.

You are only allowed one 12 week property disregard in any 52 week period; if you return to your previous home but then re-enter residential care you cannot have a 12 week property disregard for both periods of residential care if they fall into the same 52 week period.

While the 12 week property disregard is in place, we will work out how much you need to pay towards the cost of your care based on your other capital, savings and income.

When the 12 week period ends we will add the value of your property to your capital and savings when we work out how much you need to pay towards the cost of your care.

The 12 week property disregard only applies to a permanent resident's main or only home for the first 12 weeks in a care home. If you have been in a care home for some time you will not be automatically entitled to have your home disregarded.

After the 12 week property disregard you may wish to apply for the Council's Deferred Payment Scheme.

If you do not apply or are not accepted to the Council's Deferred Payment Scheme you have to find alternative funds to pay the care home direct.

Deferred Payments Agreements (DPA)

Here is some basic information on Deferred Payments Agreements. Please ask your social care worker for the separate Deferred Payments Agreements information sheet for further details.

- You, or your representatives, are advised to seek appropriate independent financial information and advice before the DPA is finalised.
- A DPA allows you to delay selling your home in your lifetime to pay for your care. By entering into a DPA you can delay paying for your care and support until a later date (often after your death).
- If you have eligible needs, and are receiving or are going to receive residential care services, extra care services or supported living services, you can apply for a DPA.
- A DPA can last until your death, or it can be used as a “bridging loan” to give you time and flexibility to sell your home at a time that is convenient to you.
- When the Council calculates the contribution that you need to make towards your care, in most circumstances, we must ignore the value of your home for the first 12 weeks after entering a care home, supportive living or extra care setting. This is known as the “**12 week Property Disregard**”.
- If you enter into a DPA the Council will place a legal charge on your property to secure the deferred amount. The legal charge will be removed when the outstanding debt, including interest and fees, has been paid in full to the Council.
- If your property is jointly owned, all owners must be signatories to the DPA.
- The Council will charge fees to cover the initial application and setup costs of the DPA as well as an annual fee to cover the ongoing administration costs.
- The Council will charge compound interest on the DPA. The interest rate will be the national maximum interest rate published by central government in the Economic and Fiscal Outlook published by the Office for Budget Responsibility.

Equity Release

If you have taken an Equity Release Plan (or similar), out on your property you will need to provide the Council with a copy of the relevant paperwork. This will help us to decide the value that should be included in your capital.

Right to Buy

If your property is a former council house and someone else helped you to buy it through the Right to Buy scheme, the Council may not count all of its value in your capital. The person who helped you buy your house will need to give the Council evidence of their contribution. The minimum value which will be included in your capital and assets will be the amount of percentage discount given to you when the property was purchased.

If you have capital and savings between £14,250 and £23,250

If you have capital between £14,250 and £23,250 (excluding the value of your home and/or which cannot be disregarded) the Council will apply “**tariff income**”. This means that for every £250 of capital, or part thereof, between £14,250 and £23,250 we class £1 per week as extra income which we call tariff income.

For example; if you have capital of £18,100, this is £3,850 above the lower capital limit of £14,250. Dividing the additional capital (£3,850) by £250 produces a figure of £15.40. When calculating tariff income, the amount is always rounded up. This therefore gives a tariff income of £16 per week.

Any tariff income calculated will be counted as income in your financial assessment.

Tariff income is meant to represent an amount a person should be able to contribute towards their care costs from their capital. It is not intended to represent the interest earned on that capital.

Income

The Council will not include the following when calculating income:

- Mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment
- War Widows special payment
- Christmas bonus
- Winter fuel payment
- Income from savings
- Child tax credit
- Guardians allowance
- £10 per week of war widows/widowers disablement pension
- War Disablement Pension, with the exception of Constant Attendance Allowance from 10/04/2017 onwards
- Income from a mortgage protection policy.

Some other types of income are not included in the assessment; if you would like to know what is included you can look on the Council's website [Who pays for a care home](#) or phone the Customer Service Centre on 0116 305 0004.

Occupational / Private Pension or Retirement Annuity

If you are in a care home, up to half of your occupational / private pension can be paid to your spouse / partner who remains at home.

If you do this the Council may not take that amount into account when they calculate the amount you should pay towards your care service.

Further criteria must be met before we can do this. If you would like more information you can look on the Council's website [Your benefits when you move into a care home](#) or phone the Customer Service Centre on 0116 305 0004 and they will transfer you to someone who can answer your query.

You should obtain advice before making decisions on how to manage your occupational / private pension as it may affect your spouse's / partner's benefit entitlement.

Pension Pot

A pension pot refers to the amount of money available for your private pension.

Changes introduced by the Government from April 2015 allow you more freedom on how you can use your pension pot. You are recommended to obtain independent advice when you plan how to use or access your pension pot. If you or your partner takes any money from your pension pot you must tell the Council when you complete the financial assessment form.

Personal Expenses Allowance and Disposable Income Allowance

If you have a Deferred Payment Agreement with the Council you have the right to keep some of your income. This is known as the **Disposable Income Allowance**. You can choose how much income to keep up to the maximum amount set by the Government which is £144 per week. If you rent out your former home you can also keep 50% of the gross rent. The remaining 50% of the gross rent must be paid towards your care home fees.

If you do not have a Deferred Payment Agreement with the Council you will be allowed a **Personal Expenses Allowance** of £24.90 per week (minimum amount in 2017/18). This amount is set by the Government each year.

Expenses

If you have a Deferred Payment Agreement with the Council, your Disposable Income Allowance is expected to cover all your expenses including your previous home expenses.

If you do not have a Deferred Payment Agreement and a property has been disregarded, the Council will decide if you need additional money to meet the housing expenses of your previous home. These include rent/mortgage, water rates, buildings and contents insurance, lifeline and service charge. A standard additional amount of £6.90 per week (2017/18) is allowed for gas / electricity and telephone expenses; this amount is set by the Council each year.

Couples

If you are planning to move to a residential care home permanently and you are married or living with someone as a couple, the Council will only use **your** income, capital and savings when we work out how much you have to pay towards the cost of your care.

If you have capital and savings that you own with another person, the Council will assume that you own half the amount. The Council will include that amount in your capital and savings unless you supply written proof of other arrangements.

If both you and your partner are planning to move to a residential care home permanently, the Council will look at your finances individually.

Giving away, or failing to apply for, capital or income

If the Council decides that you have given away any capital to try and avoid paying as much towards the cost of your care we will complete your financial assessment as though you have the capital still available to you.

If you have transferred an asset to a third party to avoid the charge, the third party is liable to pay the local authority the difference between what it would have charged and did charge the person receiving care. There is no time limit on how far back the Council can look if they believe you have given away any capital or income for this reason.

In some instances you may need to apply for access to capital assets or income that you have not yet applied for. Where the Council treats capital or income as available on application as notional capital or income it will do so only from the date at which it could reasonably be acquired by you.

Benefits

If you pay the full cost of your care you will still be entitled to receive Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payment.

Because you are moving into a residential care home you may be entitled to receive the higher rates of Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance Care Component and Personal Independence Payment daily living component if you are not already doing so. You should seek advice about this before requesting a supersession as your existing award, or any mobility component, could be affected.

Dependent on your income and amount of capital you may also be entitled to receive Pension Credit or Employment Support Allowance.

In most cases, if you are eligible for a 12 week property disregard, payment of Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance Care Component and Personal Independence Payment Daily Living Component should be suspended after you have been in a care home for 28 days and for the remainder of the 12 week period

When the 12 week property disregard period has ended, you will then be entitled to receive Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance Care Component, and Personal Independence Payment Daily Living Component again if you are self-funding your care.

Some benefits change when you receive a 12 week property disregard. You should phone the relevant DWP office and let them know that you are receiving assisted funding from the Council for the first 12 weeks of your residential stay.

You should apply for social security benefits from the DWP as early as you can so that you receive your full entitlement. Most benefits will not be backdated earlier than the date that you submitted the claim.

You are advised to contact the DWP to advise them that you have moved into residential care. Contact numbers can be found at the end of this booklet.

If you experience any difficulties with any aspect of your benefits claim, and you are eligible for Council funded care, you should ask your social worker to refer you to the Adults and Communities Benefits Team for assistance.

If you are not eligible for Council funded care and experience difficulties with your benefits claim you should contact an independent organisation for assistance. You can either search for a benefits advisor on the internet or you could contact [Turn2Us](#)

Attendance Allowance (AA)

- AA is a benefit for people who are aged 65 and over when they first claim. It is for people who need help with personal care during the day and/or the night or need supervision to avoid common dangers.
- AA is not means-tested and it is tax-free.
- You must normally have had care needs for six months before AA can be paid but you can make a claim earlier.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

- PIP is a benefit for disabled adults who are aged under 65 when they first claim and who need help with daily living tasks and/or mobility.
- PIP is not means-tested and is tax free.
- You must normally have had care needs for three months before PIP can be paid but you can make a claim earlier.
- If you started to receive PIP before you were 65 you will continue to receive it after your 65th birthday. You do not need to transfer to AA.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

- DLA was a benefit for disabled people under 65, when they first claimed, who needed help with personal care and/or mobility or supervision to avoid common dangers.
- DLA is not mean-tested and is tax free.
- If you started to receive DLA before you were 65 you will continue to receive it after your 65th birthday. You do not need to transfer to Attendance Allowance (AA).
- If you were 65 years old before 8 April 2013 you will not be required to transfer to the Personal Independence Payment (PIP).
- If you are receiving DLA and were under 65 on 8 April 2013 you will be invited to claim PIP instead when your current award is due to end or at a later date around 2017/18.
- If you are receiving DLA and were under 65 on the 8 April 2013 and your needs have changed you will be re-assessed under the new PIP criteria. We recommend that you seek advice before requesting a supersession as your current award could be affected including any mobility component.

Employment Support Allowance (ESA) for people of working age

- ESA is a benefit paid to people under pension age whose ability to work is limited by ill health or disability. If you require any additional information you can find it at [GOV.UK: Employment and Support Allowance \(ESA\)](http://GOV.UK: Employment and Support Allowance (ESA))
- To claim ESA you should contact the JobCentre Plus.

Pension Credit (PC) for people of state pension credit age or over

Pension Credit is made up of two parts:

- Guarantee Credit. Paid to people of state pension age or over whose income is below set amounts. It tops up weekly income to a guaranteed minimum level.
- Savings Credit. Paid to people over 65 who have income above set amounts and have saved some money towards their retirement or have a small private pension.
- The Savings Credit part of Pension Credit will close for people reaching State Pension age on or after 6 April 2016.
- If you reach State Pension age before 6 April 2016 you can still get Savings Credit, depending on your circumstances, regardless of when you apply.
- If you are a couple where one person reaches State Pension age before 6 April 2016 and the other on or after 6 April 2016, you can only get Savings Credit if one of you;
 - was already getting it immediately before 6 April 2016 and
 - has been entitled to it at all times since 6 April 2016

You will need to provide proof of your income, savings and any other capital. For Pension Credit purposes as a resident in a care home, any savings you have over £10,000 will be assessed as providing a weekly notional income of £1.00 per week for every £500 or part of £500 you own.

The value of your former home will normally be included in the amount of capital that you have unless you can show that you are taking reasonable steps to sell the property.

What happens to your spouse's / partner's benefits when you move into residential care?

If you are married, a registered civil partner, or are living with a partner, it is likely that the DWP calculated your benefit entitlement as a joint claim.

When you move into permanent residential care this will change and you will both be classed as single people for benefit entitlement purposes. The amount of benefits that your spouse / partner is entitled to claim may change.

Carers Allowance (CA)

Carers Allowance is paid to help you look after someone with substantial caring needs. You don't have to be related to, or live with, the person you care for. You must be 16 or over and spend at least 35 hours a week caring for them. Carers Allowance is taxable.

If your spouse / partner, or anyone else, receives Carers Allowance for you, this will stop if any of these benefits cease to be paid to you:

- Attendance Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance care component
- Personal Independence Payment daily living component

If your spouse / partner is receiving additional:

- Income Support
- Income related employment and support allowance
- Pension Credit premium OR
- Other additional amounts because they receive Carers Allowance for you these will stop 8 weeks after the Carers Allowance stops.

Council Tax Reduction

The amount that your spouse / partner has to pay for council tax may change when you move into residential care. Please contact your local district council for advice.

Changes to Benefits while in Hospital or Residential Care

This can be a very complicated area. The basic details are shown in the table below but you are advised to seek independent advice for your specific circumstances.

	AA	DLA	PIP	PC	ESA
After 4 weeks in hospital	Suspended	Suspended	Suspended	Payable	Payable
After 4 weeks in permanent residential care	Suspended	Care component suspended. Mobility component continues	Daily living component suspended. Mobility component continues	Payable	Payable
Absent from residential care	Seek advice	Seek advice	Seek advice	Payable	Payable
Paying full cost of care	Payable	Payable	Payable	Payable	Payable
Deferred Payment arrangement	Payable	Payable	Payable	Payable	Payable
12-week property disregard	Suspended	Care component suspended. Mobility component continues	Daily living component suspended. Mobility component continues	Payable	Payable

Nursing Homes

Registered Nursing Care Contribution (RNCC)

The Council is not responsible for arranging or funding the **nursing** element of care for residents in **nursing homes** although we will still be able to arrange and fund accommodation and personal care costs.

The Council will complete a financial assessment to calculate how much residents will be required to pay towards the cost of their accommodation and personal care, but not nursing care.

Nursing care, in this context, means care by a registered nurse providing, planning and supervising your care in a nursing home. This includes the time spent by a nurse in supervising or monitoring the care you get from other members of staff.

Help is available from the National Health Service (NHS) towards the cost of nursing care fees. This is called the Registered Nursing Care Contribution (RNCC).

If you live in a **residential care home** your nursing care will be supplied by the community nursing service. The RNCC will not be applicable and you will not be required to pay for your nursing care.

If you are planning to move into a nursing care home and pay for your own care in the future you are advised to contact your local Health Authority and request an assessment before making a firm decision to see if you meet their criteria for funding. Ask the prospective nursing home for details of the Health Authority contact for their area.

If you meet the Health Authority's criteria for receiving nursing care:

- You will receive a payment of £155.05 per week (2017/18)
- An additional payment of £5.80 (2017/18) for people with continence issues may also be paid.

If you are paying for the full cost of your care you will need to arrange a reduction in your fees with the nursing home.

Review of Nursing Care Needs

Anyone entering a nursing home should have their nursing needs reviewed within three months and, again, after 12 months or whenever there is a significant change in your health. Your nursing home will arrange this review for you with the Health Authority.

Useful Contacts

Leicestershire County Council - leicestershire.gov.uk

Customer Service Centre - Telephone: 0116 305 0004

To arrange a Community Care Assessment and obtain a copy of the Directory of Registered Care Homes or advice regarding any aspect of residential care and charging.

Care Quality Commission (CQC) - cqc.org.uk

The CQC monitor, inspect and regulate services to make sure that they meet acceptable standards of quality and safety. They publish their findings in order to help people choose care services.

For general information regarding care homes (but not funding issues), including copies of inspection reports about specific care homes.

CQC National Correspondence
Citygate
Gallowgate
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4PA

Telephone: 03000 616 161

[Department for Work and Pensions](#)

- 1) The Pensions Centre can assist people with matters including Pension Credit and Retirement Pension.

Tel: 0345 6060 265 for Pension Credit enquiries

Tel: 0800 99 1234 for Pension Credit new claims

- 2) The JobCentre Plus can assist people with Employment and Support Allowance and Income Support.

Tel: 0345 608 8545 for JobCentre Plus enquiries

Tel: 0800 055 6688 for JobCentre Plus new claims

Attendance Allowance/ Disability Living Allowance / Personal Independence Payment Help Lines

[GOV.UK: Benefits/disability](http://gov.uk/benefits/disability)

Telephone (or textphone for people with speech or hearing problems) helplines operated by the Department for Work and Pensions to give advice about Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payment.

Attendance Allowance Helpline

Telephone: 0345 605 6055
Textphone: 0345 604 5312

Disability Living Allowance Helpline
If you were born on or before 8 April 1948
Telephone: 0345 605 6055
Textphone: 0345 604 5312

If you were born after 8 April 1948
Telephone: 0345 712 3456
Textphone: 0345 722 4433

Personal Independence Payment Helpline
Telephone: 0345 850 3322
Textphone: 0345 601 6677