



# Funding Your Own Support



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The information contained in this booklet is intended to make you aware of some of the complex financial issues that arise when you decide to live in residential or nursing care. It is not a statement of the law on these issues. Every effort has been made to compile this booklet using information which is up to date at the time of publication (January 2014). Bracknell Forest Council cannot accept responsibility for any loss arising from the use of the information contained in this guidance or any omissions therein.

You are advised to seek independent financial advice and, if appropriate, independent legal advice if you believe that any of the information in this booklet might be relevant in your particular situation.



## Funding your own support

'Funding your own support' is a guide for people who have decided that residential care is the right kind of support for them and will have to pay the full cost themselves. This guide is also for people who want to feel more prepared for later life, and are considering how they might cope if unable to care for themselves in the future. If you are already living in and paying for your own care in a residential care home and did not seek financial advice or an assessment of your needs, you should contact Bracknell Forest Council immediately to receive free, appropriate guidance and signposting information.

People are living much longer, healthier lives than used to be the case. There are almost 15,000 people over the age of 65 living in Bracknell Forest. If it is assumed that the population is similar to national demographics, The London School of Economics reports that it is likely a third of these people will have to pay more than £35,000 in total to meet their care needs in later life. This rises to £50,000 when considering accommodation costs on top.

In 2014/15, if you have capital and/or savings of more than £23,250 it is likely you will be expected to pay the full cost of your residential care until your savings drop below this level. Capital and savings can include the value of your own home, however there are certain exceptions. You are advised to talk to Bracknell Forest Council for further information.

It is important to note that if you choose to live somewhere that charges fees higher than the local authority can afford, and your capital depletes to below £23,250, the local authority may not agree to continue paying for this. This could mean either moving to an alternative care home with

lower fees or a relative or friend finding the extra money to top up the local authority contribution.

If you have to pay the full cost of living in a care home yourself you are known as self-funding. If you are self-funding we strongly recommend that you get specialist care fees advice from a qualified Independent Financial Adviser (IFA) as soon as the need for care arises. Specialist care fees advice can also help you to understand your entitlement to benefits and make informed decisions on how to meet care costs over the long-term.

## My Care My Home

My Care My Home is an organisation which provides support and guidance to people who pay for their own care. They offer:

- Advice regarding the range of support options available, including options to support people to remain at home
- Advice regarding the various ways in which people can pay for residential care, for example purchasing an annuity product for a one-off cost which guarantees to cover costs for the rest of someone's stay in the residential setting
- A number of additional services including evaluation of support providers according to a person's individual needs and preferences and property management services for those moving to residential care who choose to rent out their property.

Contacting My Care My Home is free as is their initial assessment of someone's needs. Other services are chargeable but this will be explained clearly at the start.

To contact My Care My Home, Telephone: 0800 731 8470

Website: [www.mycaremyhome.co.uk](http://www.mycaremyhome.co.uk)

# How Much Will I Have To Pay Towards The Cost Of Living In A Home?

## Residential Care

If you need to pay for your own support, you will have to pay the whole cost of this. Residential care fees can vary but are likely to be in excess of £475 per week.

## Nursing Care

If you are receiving nursing care, following an assessment, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) local to the care home, pay a fixed amount (£109.79 in 2014/15) a week towards the nursing element of your care home costs. Like residential care fees, nursing fees also vary.

If you require high levels of health care, you may be able to get your full care costs paid for by the NHS if you meet the 'Continuing Healthcare' criteria. For more information, contact Continuing Healthcare on 01753 636302 or go to [www.berkshireeast-pct.nhs.uk](http://www.berkshireeast-pct.nhs.uk)

For information and advice about any Social Security Benefits you may be entitled to, please contact Bracknell Citizens Advice Bureau on 0844 499 4107 or visit [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)



## What Are My Options?

People who fund their own residential care, broadly speaking do so in one of four ways.

### **1) Use savings and/or income from investments (including possible rental income from their house) to pay the residential home fees each month.**

- You are responsible for ensuring the care home is paid fully for your care.
- If you are self-funding but your capital is falling towards £23,250, approach the local authority and ask for an assessment of your care needs. Please inform us as soon as you know your assets will fall beneath £23,250.





## **2) Sell their home and use the proceeds to pay care fees directly to the residential home.**

- You are responsible for ensuring the care home is paid fully for your care.
- In some circumstances, if someone continues to live in the property after you have moved into a residential home, the value of the property may not be considered as part of your 'capital'. An Independent Financial Advisor will be able to look at your specific circumstances and guide you on this.

## **3) Purchase a Care Fees Plan**

- This means paying a lump sum to an insurer who will then guarantee to cover residential and nursing care fees for the rest of your life. Fees are paid directly from the insurance company to the care home provider.
- You are strongly advised to see an Independent Financial Advisor who specialises in this area. They will take you through the financial and health questionnaires and will guide you through the process.

#### **4) Enter into a Deferred Payment Agreement with the Local Authority.**

- This scheme may be available to you if you have a home to sell but do not wish to sell it straight away.
- This means the Council will pay the fees to the care home
- You will have to enter into an agreement with the Council to reimburse their costs. You will have to reimburse some costs from your income with the remainder to come from the proceeds when your home is sold. You will also have to pay for the contract and charge on your property.
- You are strongly advised to see an Independent Financial Advisor who specialises in this area.

When considering these options, you may identify some advantages and pitfalls of each depending on your circumstances. In the vast majority of cases this is not a straight forward decision and there is an element of risk to be considered with each. This is why it is so important to speak to someone independent who understands the implications of each choice.

## Financial Advisors

When considering future care, it is important to find a well qualified independent financial adviser, somebody who you feel you can rely upon to understand the plans you need to make and the complexities of the many decisions you may need to face when looking at funding your future care services.

Financial advice should take you to the stage where you can make clear and informed decisions in the knowledge that you have all the information and choices you need to reach those decisions.

Independent Financial Advisors do charge for their time and advice, however many will offer a free one hour initial consultation. When you make contact with an advisor, make sure you understand what you will be expected to pay. There are three main ways of paying for advice:

**a) Fees** – you pay the adviser a fee, either at an hourly rate or a set fee.

**b) Commission** – you pay the adviser indirectly. The product provider pays them a commission for the product that you buy. This money is then deducted by the product provider from the amount of money they pay you from the product(s) you purchase. All commission must be disclosed by advisers.

**c) Fees and commission** – by paying a combination of fees and commission.

Not all advisers offer all three payment options. Make sure the adviser offers the payment option that you want and that you compare the cost of different



options. When choosing an Independent Financial Advisor, check:

- That they have experience of providing advice on long-term care funding
- That they hold the specialist CF8 qualification (this is required by the Financial Services Authority for any financial adviser giving financial advice about long-term care).
- How independent the advice is. You need the adviser to act in your best interests, not in the interests of people who want to sell you their products.

## The Society Of Later Life Advisors (SOLLA)

The Society of Later Life Advisors was founded in 2008 as a not for profit organisation dedicated to raising the standards of practice of financial advisors supporting older people by promoting the highest levels of professionalism.

SOLLA helps people to find Independent Financial Advisors who specialise in the financial needs of older people. Members have taken steps to become independently accredited to offer the added reassurance that as well as holding professional qualifications, they can offer the practical guidance needed to make the right decisions at the right time.

SOLLA can be contacted through their website [www.societyoflaterlifeadvisers.co.uk](http://www.societyoflaterlifeadvisers.co.uk) or on 0845 303 2909.

Please see page 16 for details of some financial advisors in the area who are members of SOLLA.

## Unhappy With The Advice You've Received?

If you are unhappy with any financial advice you have received, you have the right to a review from the Financial Ombudsman Service. They can be contacted on 0800 023 4567 (free from a land line) or 0300 123 9 123 (free from monthly contract mobile phones) or visit their website at: **[www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk](http://www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk)**

Adults who fund their own residential or non-residential social care also have access to an independent complaints review service regarding any general advice or service they have received from local government. This is provided by the Local Government Ombudsman who can be contacted on 0300 061 0614 or visit their website at: **[www.lgo.org.uk](http://www.lgo.org.uk)**



## Financial Advisors Available Locally.

Bracknell Forest Council has supplied details of some organisations who employ SOLLA registered financial advisers for your information only, the information is not exhaustive and there are more financial advisers available in the market. The Council has not vetted any financial advisers and does not control and is not responsible or liable for them or any advice or services they provide. The Council does not endorse or make any representations about any financial advisers, or any results or advice that may be obtained from using them. If you decide to use any financial adviser please ensure that you conduct your own prudent checks.



It is the individual person who is SOLLA accredited rather than the company. If the individual named here is not available, please ask to speak to an alternative SOLLA accredited IFA.

### **Bluesky Independent Financial Advisers**

#### **David O'Connor**

3 Chalfont Close, Lower Earley, Reading RG6 5SY

Tel: 0118 987 6655

info@blueskyifas.co.uk

www.blueskyifas.co.uk

### **Care Fees Advice Agency**

#### **Rob Hughes**

36 Holmbury Avenue, Crowthorne RG45 6TQ

Tel: 01344 779 175

care@carefeesadvice.com

www.carefeesadvice.com

### **Professional Financial Centre**

#### **(Thames Valley) Ltd.**

#### **Kirsten Dalton**

55 Peach Street, Wokingham RG40 1XP

Tel: 0118 979 7596

k.dalton@pfcthamesvalley.co.uk

www.pfcthamesvalley.co.uk

### **Protection and Investment Limited**

#### **Daniel Kasaska**

Index House, St. George's Lane, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 7ET

Tel: 01344 636 374

daniel@pil.uk.com

www.pil.uk.com



## Additional Information

### **Age UK**

The Age UK Group is a national charity working to improve later life for everyone by providing life-enhancing services and vital support. Their website has lots of information about choosing and paying for your own residential and/or nursing care.

Tel: 0800 169 6565

[www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)

### **Bracknell and District Citizens Advice Bureau**

Bracknell CAB is an independent local charity that helps people to resolve their legal, money and other problems.

You can drop into their offices at 40-42 The Broadway, Bracknell, RG12 1AG (please see the website for opening hours), visit their website at [www.bracknellcab.org.uk](http://www.bracknellcab.org.uk) or call 0844 499 4107 for more information.

**The Financial Services Authority** produces information about funding long-term care and holds a register of qualified financial advisers.

Tel: 0300 500 5000

[www.fsa.gov.uk/](http://www.fsa.gov.uk/)

### **FirstStop**

First Stop is led by the Elderly Accommodation Council and funded by government, charities and commercial organisations. It is an independent and free service offering information and advice on housing, and care options including funding advice.

You can contact them on 0800 377 7070 or visit:

[www.firststopcareadvice.org.uk](http://www.firststopcareadvice.org.uk)

### **The Law Society**

Details of specialist legal advisers in the local area can be obtained from the Citizen's Advice Bureau or from the Law Society.

Tel: 020 7242 1222

[www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk)

## **The Money Advice Service**

You can find out more information for immediate or future needs from the Money Advice Service. The Money Advice Service exists to help you. It offers clear and unbiased money advice and information to help you make the most of your money, whatever your circumstances – and it's free.

The Money Advice Service is independent and unbiased – so it won't recommend any particular products or try to sell you anything. It was set up by government and is funded by a levy on the financial services industry: [www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk](http://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk)

## **Paying for care**

[www.payingforcare.co.uk](http://www.payingforcare.co.uk)

Paying for Care is an advice website launched in 2011 designed to help individuals make more informed decisions about the arrangements and funding for their long term care. The site is also useful for people who have Powers of Attorney and family members and friends.

The site has been created by Partnership Life Assurance Company Limited who design and provide financial products for retirement and long term care.

The site endeavours to give balanced, up-to-date advice on the complex subject of long term care, specifically care payment, through careful, continuous research and collaboration with independent care experts and respected support organisations.

Whilst this site may provide useful information, you are strongly advised to obtain your own independent financial advice.

## **Society of Later Life Advisors**

[www.societyoflaterlifeadvisers.co.uk](http://www.societyoflaterlifeadvisers.co.uk)

Later Life Advisers specialise in the financial needs of older people. Professional qualifications whilst essential are unlikely to give the full picture of an adviser expertise. Those advisers who have taken the further steps to become independently accredited can offer the added reassurance that they offer the practical help and guidance needed to make the right decisions at the right time.

'Paying for long-term care in England' is available from the SOLLA website and is a useful guide to getting advice on paying for your own long-term care.



Copies of this booklet may be obtained in large print, Braille, on audio cassette or in other languages. To obtain a copy in an alternative format please telephone 01344 352000.

### **Nepali**

यस प्रचारको सक्षेपं वा सार निचोड चाहिं दिइने छ, ठूलो अक्षरमा, ब्रेल वा क्यासेट सून्नको लागी । अरु भाषाको नक्कल पनि हासिल गर्न सकिने छ । कृपया सम्पर्क गनुहोला ०१३४४ ३५२००० ।

### **Tagalog**

Mga buod/ mga hango ng dokumentong ito ay makukuha sa malaking letra, limbag ng mga bulag o audio kasette. Mga kopya sa ibat-ibang wika ay inyo ring makakamtan. Makipag-alam sa 01344 352000

### **Urdu**

اس دستاویز کے خلاصے یا مختصر متن جلی حروف، بریل لکھائی یا پھر آڈیو کیسٹ پر ریکارڈ شدہ صورت میں فراہم کئے جا سکتے ہیں۔ دیگر زبانوں میں اس کی کاپی بھی حاصل کی جا سکتی ہے۔ اس کے لیے براہ مہربانی ٹیلیفون نمبر 01344 352000 پر رابطہ کریں۔

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### **Portuguese**

Podemos disponibilizar resumos ou extractos deste documento em impressão grande, em Braille ou em audiocassete. Podem também ser obtidas cópias em outros idiomas. Por favor ligue para o 01344 352000.