

FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

Unlike healthcare delivered by the NHS, residential care for older people isn't free to everyone. Most people pay something towards the cost, although the amount depends on their individual circumstances.

To decide if you're eligible for financial support for a care home, the local authority will first carry out a free needs assessment to work out what level of care you require.

If you're assessed as having 'eligible needs', the local authority will then look at your capital (savings and assets). If your capital is below the 'upper capital limit' (currently £23,250), the local authority will fund some or all of your care costs.

How residential care may be funded

- **Self-funded:** if your capital is above the 'upper capital limit' or you don't have 'eligible needs', you will pay the full fees to the care home.
- **Local-authority funded:** if your capital is below the 'upper capital limit' and you have 'eligible needs', the local authority will pay towards the cost of the care home. How much you have to contribute will depend on the amount of your capital (savings and assets) and your regular income (e.g. pension).
- **Third-party top-ups:** if you qualify for financial support from the local authority, you should be offered a choice of care homes to suit your needs. If you want to live in a care home that's more expensive than the ones you have been offered, a third party (e.g. relative or friend) can pay the difference between what the local authority is willing to pay and the fees your preferred home charges.

Where can I find out more about funding?

We recommend the following websites for information about funding and how it is assessed:

<https://www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk/en/articles/how-to-fund-your-long-term-care-a-beginners-guide>

<https://www.which.co.uk/later-life-care/financing-care/care-home-finance/paying-for-a-care-home-a4p376v5rfjf>

What funding might I get?

Your local social services department will help you understand the type of care you need and whether or not you will be eligible for financial support towards the cost of your care. If you are in hospital, you can ask your hospital discharge team or hospital social work team for advice.

What will happen if my funding arrangements change?

If you no longer have the income or capital assets to cover your care home fees, you will need to be reassessed. As you drop below the 'upper capital limit', you may begin to receive financial support from the state. Where this support does not cover the fees for your care, you can arrange for a third party (usually a relative) to pay a top-up. If a top-up cannot be arranged to cover the remainder of the fees, you may be able to move to a cheaper room or you may need to ask the local authority to move you to a different placement. We encourage you to discuss the situation with the manager to consider what fee options are available.