



What is this factsheet about?

This factsheet is written for people who are thinking about moving into a care home in the London Borough of Hounslow and will be paying for it themselves.

Who has to pay the full care home cost?

If you have more than £23,250 in savings or liquid assets, for example shares (as at financial year 2011/12), you will have to pay for the full care home cost. This means you are considered a 'self-funder'.

As a self-funder you can choose to move into an independent (private or voluntary) care home anywhere in the country.

Assessment of need

A move into a care home is a life changing decision. We want to make sure you have all the information you need to make the right decision. Because you are paying for your own care, the Council do not need to be involved.

However, we could provide you with an assessment of your needs. This is free of charge and will help you look at what your needs are. For example, there may be other ways that you could be supported without having to go into a care home.

If you would like an assessment of your needs, you will need to contact your local social services office. If you live within the London Borough of Hounslow contact details for Community Services are listed at the end of this factsheet.

If you do not want an assessment of your needs, we can give you information and advice about independent care homes in Hounslow. Age UK and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) can also give you information and advice.

We would advise you to visit a number of care homes before making your decision. Do not be afraid to ask lots of questions. It is important that you are confident you have found the right one for you.

All care homes are registered with the Care Quality Commission. They inspect the homes regularly. You can ask the care home to show you their latest CQC inspection report.

Care home charges

It is important that you ask specific questions about how much the care home will charge and what that amount covers. Charges will vary according to the type of care you want and where the care home is located.

Getting independent financial advice

Local care homes currently charge roughly between £600-£1000 per week. **We strongly recommend that you seek independent financial advice.**

As a self-funder you will keep some of your benefits and may be eligible to apply for others. For example, if you are paying for the full care home cost, you can apply for Attendance Allowance. The Allowance can be used toward the cost of weekly fees, reducing the amount of savings you will need to use.

If you need a care home with nursing, the Primary Care Trust will pay a contribution towards the cost of your care. This is called "NHS Funded Nursing Care" and is £108.70 per week (2011/2012 figure). This again would reduce the amount of your savings you will need to use.

When your savings have reduced to £23,250 (2011/12) you may be eligible for support from the local authority. Hounslow, like all local authorities, has a 'cost ceiling' for care homes. This means a maximum amount they are prepared to pay towards the cost of a care home.

If you are considering moving into a care home, we advise you to ask whether Hounslow Council currently fund other people placed there.

If the care home fee is higher than Hounslow's cost ceiling, you could:

- be asked to move to a care home that Hounslow will pay for; or
- consider a 'top up', where your family/friends agree to pay the difference between what Hounslow would pay towards the cost and the fee the home charge.

Useful Contacts

If you would like an assessment of your needs or simply want more information about our services, contact:

The Adult Access Team, 41 New Heston Road, Heston TW5 0LW.

Monday – Thursday, 9am - 5pm (Friday 9am - 4.45pm)

Tel: **020 8583 3100**

Minicom: **020 8583 3186**

Email: **adultsocialcare@hounslow.gov.uk**

www.hounslow.gov.uk

Care Quality Commission

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) are the regulatory body for registered care homes and hold information about local care homes.

Finsbury Tower, 103-105 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8TG.

Tel: **03000 61 61 61** (Mon-Fri, 8.30am - 5.30pm)

Email: enquiries@cqc.org.uk

Web: www.cqc.org.uk

Age UK - Hounslow

Age UK offer information and advice about care homes.

Alexandra House, Albany Road, Brentford TW8 ONE.

Tel: **020 8560 6969**

Fax: **020 8560 9119**

Email: stephenhawkins@ageconcernhounslow.org.uk

Web: www.ageconcernhounslow.org.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau

Citizens Advice Bureau can give you information and advice about your benefit entitlement living in the community or in a care home.

Citizens Advice Bureau, 45 Treaty Centre, High Street, Hounslow TW3 1ES.

Tel: **020 8570 2983**

Web site: www.cab.org.uk

Help in Hounslow

Help in Hounslow provides advice and information on local services to help you get what you need.

Alexandra House, Albany Road, Brentford TW8 ONE.

Helpline: **0300 012 0246**

For details of all London Borough of Hounslow services, visit our website at:
www.hounslow.gov.uk

Translations and accessible formats:

ترجمے کی مفت سہولت اور آسان دستیاب خدمات
अनुवाद की मुफ्त सेवा उरजमे दी मुहत्त सेवा



020 8583 2299