

Guide to finding a care home

Finding the right care home for your loved one can be a daunting task. We have prepared a simple checklist of things to consider, to help you on your journey.

Evaluate the need:

It is important to identify whether your loved one needs care. If they are unable to look after their basic needs without help, then a care home could be a suitable choice. Once this has been decided, it is important to know the type of care your loved one requires. This can be assessed with help from your loved ones' GP and you can then look further into the specific type of care they need – residential, dementia, nursing, respite or palliative care.

Find and shortlist care homes:

A good start would be to search for care homes offering the specific type of care you are looking for on Google by locations your loved one is interested in. Another good resource is carehome.co.uk.

Visit care homes:

Make a shortlist of care homes and make a point to visit them, as this will give you a first-hand feel of the care environment and staff. We have prepared a checklist for finding a suitable care home, which you can find here: [link]. Once you have shortlisted a care home after visiting it, it is important to visit it again with your loved one, to see if it is somewhere they can call home.

Get advice on funding the care:

Upon request, care homes should provide you with an understanding of their weekly fees. Once you have this information, it will be easier for you to narrow down care homes that fit within your budget. It is essential that you have a clear budget in mind set aside for paying for the care, prior to committing to a home. It is advisable to speak to a financial advisor to get a better idea of funding your care. You can find advice for paying for your loved one's care here: [link]

Request a care assessment:

Once you have picked a care home, approach your chosen home for an assessment. This will help ensure that the home is able to cater to your loved one's needs. You will then be informed whether the home is able to care for your loved one or not.

Get advice on funding the care:

You will need to speak to a solicitor about Power of Attorney for finance, health and welfare, to help you understand best practice, prior to choosing a care home. They will be able to offer you advice on any other legal matters relating to the care of your loved one.
