



Paying for care homes (in Scotland)

including free personal and nursing care

If you are able to pay your own fees

- If you have savings (and /or assets) of more than £19,000 you will not be entitled to any help with care fees and are regarded as **self-funding**.
- If you can afford to pay for a place in a care home yourself you can approach your chosen home and make arrangements with the home directly. The home must provide a written contract/statement of terms and conditions at the time you move into the home.
- If help might be needed to pay for the care home at any point in the future EAC advises you to contact your local authority to request an '**assessment of need**' prior to making any arrangements.
- If you are self-funding and choose to move to another area then **the area that you move to** will be responsible for assessing your needs should you need funding in the future.
- Where you are receiving **Attendance Allowance**, you will continue to receive it whilst you are paying your own fees. If you are getting help from the local authority to pay for your **personal care** the Attendance Allowance will stop after four weeks.
- If you are paying your own fees in a home providing **nursing care** you will be assessed by an NHS nurse for a contribution towards your fees. People over 65 receive £145 per week towards personal care and an additional £65 per week if they need nursing care. If you are under 65, you will receive help with nursing fees only. This amount is paid directly to the home.
- You will still have to pay for normal accommodation costs and your finances will be assessed to see how much you should pay.

If you need help to pay your fees

- If a Local Authority is arranging or providing a place in a care home they are legally obliged to carry out a **financial assessment**.
- If you have saving of less than £19,000 you should approach your Local Authority and request an **assessment of need**. A Local Authority will only pay for care where the applicant meets their criteria and will only pay the amount they would 'normally' pay for an applicant with those assessed needs.
- Both your capital and income will be assessed for a contribution towards your fees. Savings below £11,750 will be ignored whilst amounts between £11,750 and £19,000 will be counted as though they produce an income. You will have £18.10 per week **personal expenses allowance** to spend as you wish.
- State retirement pensions, private pensions and Pension Credit are included in the financial assessment. For married couples, half of any private pension can be disregarded and passed to a spouse who is still living at home.
- Any Attendance Allowance will stop after four weeks.

- Only **savings / capital / assets** in your name will be assessed. This will include half of any joint savings. Capital / assets includes any bank / building society account, premium bonds, stocks/shares and any other property. Where you have joint bank/building society accounts, it is advisable to open separate accounts prior to the assessment being carried out.
- Property will be disregarded if a spouse continues to live in the home. This will also apply if a relative over 60, or a relative under 60 but incapacitated, continues to live in the property. The Local Authority can use its discretion to disregard the property in other circumstances.
- You are allowed to let your spouse use your share of a property to purchase another property should they wish to move. Any capital remaining will be included in your financial assessment.
- The Local Authority has to disregard the value of your property for twelve weeks from the date that you permanently enter a care home. If you sell your property within the first twelve weeks then the disregard ceases from the date of the sale.
- Local Authorities can enter into a '**deferred payment agreement**' which is effectively an interest free loan. Your contribution is deferred and paid back once your property is sold. A legal charge may be placed on your property.
- Legally, husbands and wives have a duty to maintain each other financially. A Local Authority can ask your spouse to pay towards your fees. This is known as a '**Liable Relatives**' contribution and any agreement made will be voluntary and not legally binding unless it has been approved by a court as maintenance.
- If you choose a more expensive home, a **third party** can '**top-up**' Local Authority funding but you are not allowed to use your remaining capital or personal allowance to do this. Where a 'top up' is used, this will be needed for the whole time that the resident is in the care home even if charges increase.
- It is illegal to give property or savings to another person in order to qualify for funding from your Local Authority. This is known as '**deprivation of assets**'. If you give away your capital / property to relatives or others, they can be asked to pay your fees in some circumstances. (Call EAC for more information on this subject)

Fully funded NHS care

- People with very high nursing or medical needs may qualify to have their care fully funded by the NHS under the **Continuing Care** criteria. People with high nursing needs should apply to their Health Authority for this assessment.

Rules and regulations on the funding of care homes are complex. If you would like to discuss any of the above further or if you would like to receive more detailed factsheets on any aspect, please call the EAC advice line on **020 7820 1343**.

Need further information?

EAC can also provide details of care homes in your local area or any part of the United Kingdom. We also have information about other options that you may like to consider, such as remaining at home with assistance or moving into sheltered or retirement housing.