



hummingbird care

Care Home Choices – Points to Consider

This check list is only intended as a guide on points to consider in choosing a home. The questions given are not intended to cover all needs but are merely to promote awareness on issues to look at and can be used to compare different homes to help you make your choice.

Location

You may wish to remain close to your present home and family. If you are considering a change in location consider:

- Is the home in your present locality or community area
- Is it easy to access by public transport for family/friends to visit
- Is it close to local amenities e.g. shops, church, Post Office
- Is it in a quiet area and would you feel comfortable there
- Will your existing GP still be able to deal with you

The Home

Look at the brochure and other terms and conditions of residence and consider:

- Is it registered with appropriate authorities'
- Have you looked at the latest CQC report and rating on the home
- Have they supplied you with a Key information sheet on request
- Is their contract document pack compliant with the new CMA guidelines
- Can you take your pet (if you have one)
- Is the Proprietor caring and pleasant
- Is there sufficient staff on duty (consider evenings/weekends)

Your Room

This will become your own private place and must be welcoming and comfortable. Consider:

- Is it a single or double room
- Well decorated/bright/cheery with a pleasant outlook
- Can you have your own telephone
- Will it accommodate your personal possessions or small pieces of your own furniture
- Are you allowed to have any of your own furniture
- Does it have ensuite facilities
- If rooms are not ensuite, are bathrooms conveniently located

Facilities

Consider what facilities the home needs for the type of care you require, for example:

- Is there a stair lift or lift if you do not have a ground floor room
- If it is a nursing home, is there sufficient medical help available
- Is there a residents garden or outside patio area you can freely use
- Are there adequate facilities for valuable storage
- Is there a variety of activities and outings available
- Does a hairdresser/chiropractor/minister/library visit regularly
- Is there a separate quiet room as well as the communal lounge
- Are there sufficient lifts and bath aids if you are disabled

Catering

Look at sample menus and talk to the chef/cook. It is important that you will receive a good balanced diet of the type of food you enjoy. Consider:

- Is there a choice of menus
- Are special diets catered for
- Can you take meals in your room if needed
- Are meal times flexible
- Is the menu choice interesting, varied and of good quality
- Can you have a hot drink when you want
- Could you have an alcoholic drink if you wanted one

Other matters to consider

Try to assess how the home feels and what restrictions or rules the home expects you to comply with. Are they acceptable? Consider:

- Are staff friendly and welcoming
- Do residents look happy and well cared for
- Does each resident have their own individual care plan
- Are there set times for getting up/going to bed/having a bath
- Are visitors welcome to visit at all times
- Can visitors have refreshments or meals with you
- Is the home clean? Does it smell fresh

Fees

Can you afford the fees and are you clear on what exactly they include. Consider:

- How much is the weekly fee? What exactly does it cover
- Can a trial period be arranged
- Does the home accept people on Local Authority funding
- Can you afford the fees on a long-term basis
- How often are fees reviewed/increased
- Are fees payable in advance
- Will the home hold personal pocket money for you
- How much notice must you give if you wish to leave