

Questions to think about when choosing a care home.

This checklist is designed to help you ask the right questions when visiting a care home to ensure you make the best decision about which care home to choose for yourself or a loved one.

First Impressions

- Did you receive a warm and friendly welcome?
- Is the home clean and does it have a pleasant smell?
- Is the home decorated and furnished to a good standard?
- Do residents seem happy and well cared for?

Care Overview

- Does the home meet your needs?
- Has a dedicated person been highlighted for any care needs?
- Does the home have suitable assisted facilities?
- Do health care professionals such as doctors, opticians, chiropodists and physiotherapists visit the care home?

Home Life

- Will it be easy for friends and family to get to the home?
- Is the home part of the local community?
- Is there a quiet lounge available for residents?
- Are you happy with the outdoor space/ offering?
- Are the bathrooms easily accessible across the home?
- Are wheelchairs and walking frames accommodated within the home?
- Have you noticed safety handrails in the bathrooms and along the corridors?

Facilities

- Did you see the available room?
- Are you happy with the standard?
- Are you able to bring your own possessions?
- Are the facilities and amenities suitable?
- Do residents have their own key to their room?

Mealtime Experience

- Can residents choose when to eat?
- Can residents eat meals in their room?
- Is there a varied menu with choice?
- Are special diets catered for?
- Are healthy snacks available?
- Do family and friends dine regularly with residents?
- Do the kitchen staff know the residents and their preferences?

Activities

- Do residents choose their daily routine?
- Is there a varied and engaging plan of activities?
- Is it possible to take part in everyday life activities such as gardening and cooking?
- Is exercise part of life in the home?
- Does the home celebrate special events?
- Are religious beliefs supported?
- Can you take part in regular resident and relative meetings?
- Are visitors welcome at any time?

Care Provision

- Have you noticed if the home has any awards?
- Do the care teams undergo continuous training?
- Do the care teams have a good rapport with the residents?

General

- Were you able to see the home's inspection report?
- Can a trial stay be organised?
- Does there seem to be a good communication structure within the home?
- Has the fee structure been properly explained to you?

Contact us on 01423 859 859 for more information and to find out what beds we have free in a care home near you.