

Care Homes and Care Homes with Nursing in the London Borough of Bexley

A guide for applicants and carers



September 2008



This leaflet is about care homes and care homes with nursing in the London Borough of Bexley. It explains how to access this type of care, and how the cost of the care is usually met.

What is the first step to access a care home or care home with nursing?

In the first instance, it is necessary for the Council's Adult Social Services Team to be made aware that you need a service – this is called making a referral.

Who can make a referral?

- You can refer yourself – by telephoning Care Central. (contact details are listed on page 10)
- A relative or friend who cares for you may act on your behalf.
- Your Doctor, District Nurse or other health or Social Care professional.
- Any other person on your behalf with your consent.



What happens next?

Firstly, you will be asked to provide details about your current situation. You will be asked what you are capable of doing for yourself and what you need help with. This is to establish how urgent the referral is and whether you are at risk in any way.

If you request a care home or care home with nursing placement, you will be contacted by a Care Manager or Social Worker who will carry out an assessment to establish whether there are ways in which the care you need can be provided at home.

If this is not possible, alternative care arrangements will be discussed with you, including a care home or care home with nursing placement.

What happens during an assessment?

The assessment of your needs will be the responsibility of a Care Manager or Social Worker. They may need to contact other agencies and organisations, which may already be involved with your care, for example your doctor, district nurse, or physiotherapist, in order to assist in the assessment.

You will be fully involved in the assessment and encouraged to express your views. With your agreement, we will also involve your family or carers in this process.

The recommendation to support a placement in a care home or care home with nursing will only be made after a full assessment of your needs and if it is established that this type of care will meet your needs.



What is the next step?

If you are in hospital and it is agreed both by you and the health care professionals that a move into a care home or care home with nursing is needed, you will be given direct support and advice from the Hospital Social Worker about the type of placement that will best meet your needs.

If you are living in the community in your own home or with relatives, a Care Manager will need to present an application to the Joint Assessment Panel on your behalf for a care home or care home with nursing placement.

What is the Joint Assessment Panel?

The Joint Assessment Panel meets weekly. The Panel is made up of representatives from Social Services, the Health Authority and Bexley Care Trust. Panel members include Consultants, District Nurses, Consultant Psychiatrists, Managers of care homes and social care professionals.

The role of the Panel is to consider the care requirements of an applicant and to agree the care that will best meet their needs.

For some hospital patients in non-complex situations, it is not always necessary for applications to be considered by the Joint Assessment Panel. This is where the multi-disciplinary team, including the Consultant and Social Worker, agree in their recommendations for the type of care that is needed.



What are the different types of care home available?

A care home:

This type of home aims to meet your personal and social care needs.

You will have your own bedroom, unless you choose to share and have use of all the communal areas or facilities provided in the home.

The staff in a residential home can help with personal care needs such as washing, taking a bath and dressing etc.

All meals are provided and there are activities that you can take part in. Each care home will have its own activities programme.

A care home with nursing:

This type of home is managed in the same way as a residential care home. However, this type of placement aims to meet the needs of people who need 24-hour nursing care, which can only be provided by a qualified nurse or under the direct supervision of a nurse.

Placements for people with dementia care needs:

There are care homes and care homes with nursing that meet the needs of individuals who have a diagnosis of dementia and require specialist care that cannot be provided in a conventional care home.

How do I choose a home?

You will be given information about local homes available that will be suitable for your needs. Alternatively, if you would like to live nearer to family or friends, you can choose a home outside of the London Borough of Bexley area.

You may wish for other people to be involved in your decision, such as your relatives or carers. Please take the opportunity to visit the homes of your choice. This will give you the chance to view the accommodation, meet other residents who currently reside in the homes and staff who work there.



Choosing a care home involves making some important decisions. You should visit several homes before you decide, as every home has something different to offer.



The social services department will provide advice and support to assist in securing a placement in the home of your choice wherever possible, although it may be necessary to accept a temporary care placement in an alternative home if there is not a vacancy in your chosen home.

You can also obtain inspection reports on the home, which are available from the Commission for Social Care Inspection. (contact details on page 10)

How will my care be paid for?

During your assessment, you will be asked to complete a Financial Statement about your income and savings and whether you own your own home. This statement will be used to assess how much you will be required to contribute towards the cost of your care.

- If you do not own your own home, and have savings of less than £22,250 the London Borough of Bexley Council will financially support your placement. The amount payable is based on the information you have provided on your financial assessment form. (for example taking into account pension entitlement and other benefits.
- If you have assets of less than £22,250, and you own your own property you may be entitled to a Property Disregard. The value of your house will be disregarded for the first 12 weeks following your move to a care home. During this period you will have an assessed contribution to make based upon your pension entitlement and possibly other benefits.
- However if the fee of your chosen home, exceeds the London Borough of Bexley's maximums' contracting rate then a third party top up will be required. For further information regarding please contact your placement officer.
- At the end of the 12 week period, if you choose to remain in a care home, you will be re-assessed to pay the full cost of your care until your assets reduce to the financial threshold which is currently £22,250.
- If your assets exceed £22,250 (excluding the value of your property), you do not need to have an assessment

of your needs or have your case referred to the Joint Assessment Panel unless you choose to do so. The London Borough of Bexley will not be involved in direct negotiations with your chosen home, and all contractual agreements between yourselves and the proprietors of the home will be regarded as private arrangements.



- However, if your funds exceed £22,250 and you wish to move into a care home owned by Kent Community Housing Trust you will need to follow the Council's procedure for applying for permanent care. We will tell you more about this when you apply.

What should I do if I run out of money?

You must contact the Social Services Department of the Council in the area where you are residing as soon as your savings have reduced to £22,250. Please ask for a care assessment and a financial assessment.

It is advisable to contact Social Services before your savings reduce to £22,250.

If my savings reduce to £22,250, will the local council where I am residing provide me with financial support?

The London Borough of Bexley is obliged to provide financial support only to those people who have been assessed as needing long-term 24 hour care.

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS:

1. To make a referral:

01322 356363 ask for Care Central

2. For information about Care Homes and Care Homes with Nursing

The Council's Commissioning Team can advise you on resources available locally; how to go about choosing the right care home and what to do if you wish to move to a care home outside of the London Borough of Bexley.

020 8303 7777 Ask for the Duty Officer for the London Borough of Bexley Commissioning Team.

3. For Independent Inspection Reports on Care Homes:

020 8308 3520 ask for the Commission for Social Care Inspection.

4. For information about your Financial Assessment:

The Financial Assessments Section provide information and advice about how the charges for your care will be assessed on the basis of your financial circumstances.

020 8303 7777 ext 2440



5. If you are a patient in Queen Marys Hospital, Sidcup:

The Hospital Social Work Team can give you full information and advice about moving into a care home. Ask the ward staff to put you in touch with the Hospital Social Worker.

Details of all the London Borough of Bexley services can be found at www.bexley.gov.uk

If you would like to know more about the services the Council provides, or would like either a translation of this document or the information in a different format, please call our Customer Contact Centre on 020 8303 7777 and press 0, quoting reference: 601506/09/08

