

Care Home Selection - A Simple Guide



Planning

- 1 If you are looking for a home for a friend or relative talk to them and find out what is important to them. Think about what makes them happy.
- 2 Ask a friend or relative to come to the home with you when you do a review. Two pairs of eyes are better than one!
- 3 Talk to your healthcare and community support teams and get their views and thoughts on which home works best.
- 4 Ensure you take a pen and paper with you before you visit anywhere so that you can make notes.
- 5 Find at least three care homes to visit so that you are able to make a good comparison.
- 6 Is the home in a community that you know? How easy is it for you and relatives to get to the home?
- 7 What amenities and local services are near to the home? Is the home near to a local church and parks?

Done

Home visit

- 1 Were you able to park easily at the home? If you came by public transport how easy was the walk to the home?
- 2 How did the home look on arrival? Were you greeted by happy friendly staff? Does the home feel warm and homely?
- 3 Does the home seem clean and tidy? Were there any unpleasant smells or odours?
- 4 What are the views like from the home? Is it in a noisy or quiet neighbourhood? Does the home have its own garden?
- 5 Does the home have a service user guide? Are there samples of activities and menus? Does the home have a newsletter?
- 6 Does the home feel bright and airy? Is this somewhere that feels safe and secure? Is the decoration in good order?
- 7 Can the bedroom be redecorated for you? Are you able to bring your own furniture? Is there a toilet and/or a shower? What is the view like?
- 8 Are communal bathrooms adapted with special baths? How far is the nearest bathroom and toilet from a bedroom?
- 9 Is there a separate dining room? Is there a menu on display? If residents are eating does the food look nutritious and tasty?
- 10 How many lounges are there? Is there quiet space or lounges to use in the home?
- 11 What activities does the home offer? Is there a cinema room? What sort of outings does the home have? Is there a hairdressing salon?
- 12 Does the home have professionals who visit? (e.g. Podiatrist, chiropodist, optician and hairdresser)
- 13 Talk to existing residents and relatives? Find out what they think about the home and if they like it?

