

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A CARE HOME

✓ CHECKLIST ✓

GENERAL

- Does the home provide the level of care your loved one needs now or could need in the future?
- Does the home currently have any vacancies or a waiting list?
- Read the home's brochure or website and call or email the home to speak to the Care Home Manager.
- Read the most recent inspection report for the home. You can ask the home for it, or find it on the [CQC website](#).
- Read reviews from other families/residents. Many can be found on the [carehome.co.uk](#) website.
- Can you see a copy of the home's contract and terms and conditions?
- What are the home's fees?
- Is it clear how the fees are structured, calculated and collected?
- Are families encouraged to be involved in the life of the home?

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A CARE HOME

CHECKLIST

THE HOME

- Are the buildings and grounds well maintained?
- Are the rooms well decorated?
- Is there an accessible garden or courtyard?
- Are there pleasant views surrounding the home?
- Is the home clean and does it smell fresh?
- Are bedrooms ensuite or have bathrooms within easy reach?
- Does the home have communal spaces and quiet, private spaces?
- When are mealtimes and what are the choices/menus?
- Can they meet dietary requirements?
- Can staff help people eat their food if required?
- Can you travel to the home easily?
- Does the home allow smoking?
- Do residents have access to local amenities?

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A CARE HOME

CHECKLIST

THE CARE

- Are staff welcoming and interested?
- Do the staff get to know about residents' lives and experiences?
- Can residents choose if they have a male or female carer?
- How are staff trained, how often and by whom?
- Are all staff trained in caring for residents with dementia?
- Are residents and their families involved in decisions about their care?
- How do homes communicate with families?
- Does the home link with a specific GP practice for residents?
- Do health practitioners such as opticians and chiropodists visit regularly?
- What happens if a resident is unwell or needs medication?
- What safety and security measures are in place to keep residents safe?
- What measures are taken to reduce the risk of falls?
- What call systems are in place if the person needs help?

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A CARE HOME

✓ CHECKLIST ✓

LIFE IN COLOUR

- Are residents encouraged to stay active and do as much as they can for themselves?
- Is there an activities coordinator?
- Do residents seem happy and occupied?
- Are there lounges or social areas with furniture arranged to allow small groups to socialise?
- Are staff sitting and chatting with the residents? Would you feel comfortable socialising in the home's communal areas?
- Do staff read to those with sight impairment?
- Does the home have its own pets, or can residents bring their own pets?
- Are there facilities for residents to enjoy? E.g. a radio, reading room, TV room, newspapers, books or a mobile library, public phone, shared computers, internet reception, cinema, pub, café, hairdressing services?
- Are there regular social activities? E.g. music or singing, reminiscence groups, exercise classes, gardening, celebrations for special occasions and visits from entertainers, outings to shops, entertainment venues or places of worship?
- Are there any restrictions on visiting times or numbers of visitors?