

Checklist to find the right home

This checklist is designed to help potential residents and their families when they're looking for a care home. It will help you to compare different homes and gives suggestions on what to look for and ask about. We want to help you think about the things that are important to you when choosing a home. You can use the boxes to give yes/no answers or to score each home in the different areas.

	Name
Home 1	
Home 2	
Home 3	

Location	Home 1	Home 2	Home 3	Notes
Is it easy for family and friends to get to?				
Is the home conveniently close to shops and public transport?				
Do the surroundings suit you?				
Is there somewhere you can sit outside?				
First impressions				
Was there a warm and friendly welcome?				
Were refreshments offered during your visit?				
Is the atmosphere homely and welcoming?				
Is the home clean and pleasantly furnished?				
Does the home smell pleasant?				
Do the residents seem happy and well cared for?				

Activities	Home 1	Home 2	Home 3	Notes
Is there a weekly plan of activities?				
Did you see any activities during your visit?				
Are residents consulted on what hobbies/interests they have?				
Are special events (eg birthdays) celebrated in the home?				
What kind of exercises are residents encouraged to participate in?				
Does the home have a van for outings?				

Activities continued	Home 1	Home 2	Home 3	Notes
Does the home have access to transport?				
Is it possible to take part in activities outside the home?				
Could the care home help with transport to these activities?				
Are daily newspapers available for residents?				
Does the home have access to a library facility?				
Can residents be taken to places of worship?				
Can residents take part in the daily activities within the home if they wish - eg cleaning, gardening, cooking?				
Is there a resident's committee?				
Can relatives or friends help with activities?				
Can you see any photographs of activities displayed in the home?				

Staff	Home 1	Home 2	Home 3	Notes
Were staff friendly and caring towards residents?				
Does each resident have a member of staff who is particularly responsible for their care?				
Do staff look as if they have got enough time to spend with residents?				
What training do staff receive?				
How do staff get to know about a new resident's background and their likes and dislikes?				
Did you feel that individual needs and preferences could be met by the home when you visited?				

Care	Home 1	Home 2	Home 3	Notes
Can the home offer care which is suitable for our needs?				
How often will your care needs be reviewed?				
Will the home be able to offer future care needs?				
Will you or your relative/s be involved in making decisions about the care?				
Are complimentary therapies offered?				
Which doctor will the resident see?				
Are there visiting dentists and optometrists?				
How often does the hairdresser visit?				
Are chiropody services available?				

Care continued	Home 1	Home 2	Home 3	Notes
Are there physiotherapists and occupational therapist services available?				
Does the home have suitable showering facilities?				
Can the residents get up and go to bed when they want to?				
Will relatives be advised as soon as a resident is taken ill?				

Communal areas	Home 1	Home 2	Home 3	Notes
Is there more than one room where residents can sit or see visitors?				
Is there a quiet lounge without television?				
Are there safe gardens?				
Is there a bar?				
Are there arrangements for people who wish to smoke?				
Is there easy access for wheelchair and walking frames?				
Are toilets easily accessible throughout the home?				
Are there handrails in the toilets and corridors?				

Bedrooms	Home 1	Home 2	Home 3	Notes
Did you see the room that is available?				
Can residents bring their own furniture?				
Was it bright and well decorated?				
Are en-suite facilities available?				
Do bedrooms have a television?				
Do bedrooms have a telephone?				
Can residents use a telephone in privacy?				
Can residents lock their room?				
Is there a lockable drawer in the room?				
Is there a call bell in the room?				
Can residents keep pets in their room and can they go in other parts of the home?				
Can you change rooms if you want to?				

Meals	Home 1	Home 2	Home 3	Notes
Can residents eat when they want to?				
Can meals be taken in the resident's room?				
Is there a choice of menu for each meal?				
Can special diets be catered for?				
Can residents make themselves a drink?				
Are snacks available at all times?				
Are copies of current menus available for you look at?				
Are the menus rotated?				
Does the chef consult the residents about their preferences?				
Can residents choose who they sit with in the dining room?				
Can relatives and friends have a meal with you?				
Residents who need assistance with eating are provided with trained staff who can do this sensitively?				
Can you change rooms if you want to?				

Visitors	Home 1	Home 2	Home 3	Notes
Are there set visiting times or are visitors welcome anytime?				
Can children visit?				
Can visitors stay overnight if they have travelled a long way or if a resident is ill?				

General	Home 1	Home 2	Home 3	Notes
Is the home's statement of purpose/vision/values made available to you?				
Was the home's latest inspection/audit report available?				
Can a trial stay be arranged?				
Is there a waiting list?				
Is there a complaints procedure?				
What is included in the weekly fee?				
What costs are charged as extras?				
Does the home insure a resident's personal possessions?				