

Paying for care

Whether you are arranging a package of temporary care and support in your own home or are considering a move into a care home, it can be difficult to know what options are available to help cover the cost. Legal & General's Care Service website can help you answer questions about care, such as:

- Will I have to pay for care and what are the costs?
- How much will I need set aside for later life care?
- How long will my money last and what happens if I run out?

Understanding the cost of care

The cost of care will vary across the UK and depend on the type of care you require.

Home care costs

As of April 2024 United Kingdom Homecare Association (UKHCA) calculated the hourly rate needed to meet the UK Living Wage as £28.53 per hour of homecare. In Greater London this is £31.70.

Care home costs

In many homes you can expect to pay over £1,000 per week, although the average weekly cost for a residential care home is approximately £1100. This average increases to £1400 where nursing care is required.

Ways of paying for care

There are several different ways you can pay for care, and most people find they need a combination of two or more to cover the full cost:

State support

1. Local Authority Funding
2. NHS Funding through "Continuing Healthcare"
3. State Benefits
4. Deferred Payment Agreement (A Local Authority loan against your property)

Using your assets to help cover the cost

You're also likely to use some of your own assets to help pay for care. You might find it useful to speak to an Independent Financial Adviser (IFA) who specialises in care funding, particularly if you're meeting the cost of care yourself as a 'self-funder'.

5. Income (such as pensions and earnings)
6. Savings
7. Investments
8. Rental income from property
9. Using the value of your home

If you own a property: You may be able to use the value in your home to help cover the cost of home care and any home adaptations or improvements.

10. Financial products to cover the cost of care

Care funding products: If you will be meeting your care costs as a self-funder, then it is advisable to speak with a specialist Independent Financial Adviser. They can advise you on specialist care funding products that may help you to cover the cost of care.

State support

If you live in England and have less than £23,250 in savings and assets, you could get some financial support from your local authority to pay for any care they've agreed you need, at home or in a care home.

This figure of £23,250 varies by UK country, with home care being free of charge in Scotland and Northern Ireland to those who have been assessed as needing it.

How to get help from the local authority

The first step is to ask for a free care assessment from the social services department of your local authority (Health and Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland).

If the local authority agrees you need care, they'll consider your finances to decide how much you should pay.

Self-funding your care

If you do not qualify for state support, you will be considered a 'self-funder'. However, there may still be some assistance available to you or steps you can take to make your money go further. Our new Care Service website contains a Care Costs Calculator, to help you better understand your options.

About the Care Service

Legal and General's Care Service helps you **understand** your options when arranging adult or later life care or support.

The Care Search function on the Care Service website helps you **find** care homes or home care providers in your area.

Having found the right care for you, it is important to explore how this will be **funded**. Our **Care Costs Calculator** can help you work out:

- Whether you qualify for state funding and where to go for specialist care advice
- How long you will be responsible for meeting the cost of your care
- The average cost of care in your area

To help you better understand, find and fund adult or later life care, start by visiting the Legal & General Care Service website: **INSERT CARE SERVICE URL (confirm this with your account manager)**.

Our Care Concierge Service

Our Care Concierge team are experts in comparing and identifying care providers, whether in your own home or in a care home, can help you find the services you or a family member may need.

Call our Concierge experts on **0800 060 8823**.

*Call us between 9am til 5pm. Monday to Friday.
Calls may be recorded and monitored.*

It's your responsibility to choose a suitable care provider. We are not responsible for providing any care or assessing clinical needs. We don't guarantee any specific care provider's information or service. You should not engage any care provider if you have any doubts or concerns about them. We are not part of any contract between you and your care provider.

Notes for editors

- Information accurate as of 01/06/2023
- Accuracy of information will expire 31/03/2024. This article should not be used after 31/01/2024.