

Home Care

Your Employee Wellbeing is dedicated to helping families find the best advice, support and care for their family members from babies to grandparents and all the years in between. Expert services include childcare and elder care advice and searches, nanny recruitment and employment support through contracts and payroll.

What is home care?

Home care, also known as domiciliary care, is a term for support provided in the home by care workers. Enabling your relative to remain at home is often preferable as it helps them maintain personal independence, the comforts they are used to and contact with their local community.

Another advantage of home care is that it is flexible, with just the right amount of assistance given at any one time. This could be from half an hour a week, to several hours a day, or even live-in care which enables the carer to provide support 24 hours a day. The service may be on a temporary, intermittent or long-term basis.



How do I arrange home care?

The best way to arrange home care is to conduct a search with registered home care providers.

All searches should ensure that home carers and homecare agencies are regulated by the United Kingdom Home Care Association (UKHCA), which is the professional association of carers and ensures that its members adhere to strict guidelines and procedural regulations.

If you think your relative may be entitled to free or subsidised home care you can contact your local council's Social Services department for assistance

How is a home care plan created?

Home care plans are created between your elderly relative and their carer and should be tailored to their specific needs. For example, if your parent needs help preparing meals, they will agree what days and times their carer will come to assist them. Should they have

significant needs, a Needs Assessment should be carried out by their local Adult Social Services Department so that they and the carer have a clear understanding of the care plan.

What care can I expect?

After your relative has had a Needs Assessment, their local council can advise as to what care they can provide. Home care can vary from help with:

- getting in and out of bed
- bathing and washing
- preparing meals
- cleaning
- fitting equipment and adaptations to your home, such as stairlifts and bath seats
- going to a day centre

If a few hours per week are required for cleaning, shopping and minimal personal care, the Local Authority may suggest that you use a private agency to provide the care. These agencies must be registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The UK Home Care Association can provide you with details of home care providers that follow the code of practice set out by the CQC.

What happens after the home care plan expires?

As a home care plan is arranged between your relative and their caregiver, it does not have an expiration date, unless agreed by both parties. However, the level of care may have to be amended according to circumstances. At this point the level of home care can be increased or other care options can be considered, such as residential care homes or nursing homes.

How much does home care cost?

Home care costs vary in relation to the level of care provided. For short daily visits for basic tasks, care can start from an hourly rate of £15. However, the more care required, the greater the cost and rates can reach £30 per hour upwards.

These costs can mount up quickly. For example, if your hourly cost is £18 and you require 2 hours of support per day, this amounts to 14 hours of support per week which comes to around £1,100 per month or £13,200 per year. 24-hour live-in costs can start at £800 per week and increase to over £1,800 per week. Costs will go up if the carer is caring for a couple or if more than one carer is needed. If a live-in nurse is required, costs are higher still.

It is worth noting however that live-in costs can often be cheaper than a residential care home as you are not paying for the room, the meals or laundry etc. It can also be more cost-effective if care is required for a couple as you are not having to pay for two rooms in a carehome. (Source of data: UKcareguide.co.uk)

Your Employee Wellbeing has been making a difference to working parents and carers since 2011. If you would like to find out more about our bespoke eldercare search services, please do get in touch. We'd love to help.

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