

Comparing the costs of a care home and home care

When planning for care in later life, the cost of care requires careful consideration. Whether you're helping a loved one or thinking about your own future, it's important to understand the differences between the cost of a care home and the cost of home care.

What is a care home?

A care home is a place where someone can live with other elderly people safely and get help with everyday tasks as staff are available 24 hours a day. Some care homes also provide nursing care.

What is home care?

Home care means getting help at home. A care assistant can visit you to help with things like personal care, cooking, or cleaning. You can choose how often they come, from a few hours a week to live-in care.

The cost of a care home

The cost of a care home varies depending on where you live and the level of care needed. The cost of staying in a residential care home starts around £1,000 a week.





The cost of home care

The cost of home care depends on how much support you need, where you live and what is included in the package. While home care prices start from around £30 per hour, cost is often indicative of the quality and service provided. You can arrange visits for just a few hours a week or hire someone to live with you full-time. This means that you only pay for the care you need and so can work out cheaper than a care home.

Comparing the costs

The cost of a care home is usually higher overall but it includes housing, meals and full-time support. Extra services, like haircuts or trips out, may cost more. The cost of home care can be more flexible, especially if you only need a small amount of help. You stay in your own home and can maintain your routines and independence. If care needs change, the care arrangements can adapt to meet the needs.

Whether you choose home care or a care home, the decision should not be made on price alone. It is important to research the care provider thoroughly and ensure they provide the quality and level of care that you are happy with.