

# Residential care - top 10 things to consider when choosing a care home

**Agincare**

Care & Nursing Homes

**Nothing beats visiting a residential care home in person to get a real feel for the place. Take our checklist with you when you visit to record your thoughts.**

What to consider	Your thoughts
<p><b>Location</b></p> <p>Is the residential care home close enough to family and friends so they can visit you? Does it have good transport links? Is it close to local amenities, like shops and a doctor's surgery?</p>	
<p><b>Level of care</b></p> <p>Is the care home able to provide the care you need? What happens if you become more frail or your needs change? Can the home cope or will you have to move?</p>	
<p><b>Staff</b></p> <p>What's the ratio of staff to residents? What training do the staff receive? Were they kind, compassionate, friendly? Did they treat the residents with respect and dignity? Were call bells answered promptly?</p>	
<p><b>Personal needs</b></p> <p>Can the care home cater for your cultural and spiritual needs? Will they support you in going to your place of worship, or community groups? Does a dentist, optician, chiropodist and hairdresser visit on a regular basis?</p>	

What to consider	Your thoughts
<p><b>Likes and dislikes</b> Do you like a routine and a setting where a lot of things are done for you? Or would you prefer to be encouraged to be as independent as possible, and expect to be consulted about most decisions?</p>	
<p><b>Social activities</b> What activities are organised, and how often? Will you be able to keep up any hobbies you still want to do?</p>	
<p><b>Meals</b> What's the food like? How much choice is there? Are meals social occasions? Would you be able to eat in your room if that's what you prefer?</p>	
<p><b>Facilities</b> Does the care home feel like a comfortable home-from-home? Is it well-maintained? Are there welcoming communal areas? Is there wi-fi?</p>	
<p><b>Pets</b> Can you bring your pet with you? Does the home have animals living there?</p>	
<p><b>Trial period</b> Can you move in on a trial basis, to see if life in a residential care home is what you expected?</p>	