

Care home checklist

At Bramley Care we want you to make the best decision when choosing a care home for a loved one, whether that is with us here at Bramley Care or with an alternative provider.

This checklist below of questions has been designed as an aid to help you answer the questions you may have when visiting a care home, what areas you may want to consider and what you may like to ask before making a choice.

INITIAL IMPRESSIONS

- Does the home feel inviting, uplifting and homely? Yes No
- Are the care home and its grounds clean and well maintained? Yes No
- Are the rooms comfortable, clean and well decorated? Yes No
- Does the care home smell clean and fresh? Yes No
- Does the care home have a garden, and is it accessible to residents? Yes No
- Are the staff welcoming and approachable? Yes No
- Are the staff well presented? Yes No

LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

- Is the care home in a convenient location? Yes No
- Does the care home have parking spaces for visitors? Yes No
- What is the background noise level like within the care home and its surroundings?
- What are the views like from the care home?
- Are there local amenities close by that residents can access? Yes No
- Is there wheelchair access throughout the care home, including sufficient space and wide doorways for wheelchair access? Yes No
- Is there a lift/disability access to any upper levels? Yes No
- Are there accessible toilets available in all parts of the home? Yes No
- Do the toilets have handrails, raised seats and other mobility aids? Yes No

CARE

Does the home offer the type/level of care your loved one requires? Yes No

Are their members of staff trained in the type/level of care your loved one requires? Yes No

Does the care home have access to other services, such as community mental health teams, chiropodists, opticians and dentists, and how often do they visit? Yes No

Does the home have links with a specific GP practice that residents can access? Yes No

What happens if a resident becomes unwell or requires medication?.....

.....
Can a relative stay overnight if a resident is unwell? Yes No

Are any changes in medication discussed with the family? Yes No

Are staff tactful, respectful and supportive in helping a resident with their personal needs? Yes No

Will the home be able to support your loved one if their needs change? Yes No

STAFF

Are staff available at all times throughout the care home? Yes No

Is there a manager in post and a senior member of staff on duty at all times within the home? Yes No

Do staff interact well with residents? Yes No

Do staff respect the privacy and dignity of the residents in their care? Yes No

How will staff get to know residents personally?

Do staff take into account cultural and religious beliefs? Yes No

How often do staff receive training?

What training do staff receive?

DAILY LIFE

Can residents choose their daily routine, such as when they get up, go to bed, get dressed, have meals or go out? Yes No

Can residents decide whether they have a bath or shower and how often? Yes No

Can residents choose which clothes they wear? Yes No

Can residents go outside for fresh air when needed? Yes No

Are residents' pets allowed in the care home? Yes No

Do staff seem engaged and attentive? Yes No

Do residents appear happy and occupied? Yes No

Does the care home arrange activities and visits into the local community? Yes No

Can residents go to the local pub, shopping in town, a place of worship (if religious) if they wish? Yes No

BEDROOMS

- Do bedrooms have en-suite facilities. If not, are washing facilities close by? Yes No
- Are the facilities in the bedroom/en-suite accessible for residents, including those with a disability? Yes No
- Can residents bring their own furniture and personalise their bedroom? Yes No
- Is there adequate storage space within the bedroom? Yes No
- Does the bedroom have a TV and telephone point and access to a Wi-Fi connection? Yes No
- Is there an emergency pull-cord available? Yes No
- How do staff know if a resident has fallen in the bedroom – e.g. is falls detection technology in the bedrooms?
- Can pets stay in the bedroom? Yes No
- Do staff respect residents' right to privacy? Yes No

COMMUNAL AREAS

- Is there a variety of communal areas to choose from? Yes No
- Can residents access all communal areas easily? Yes No
- Is there an accessible and safe garden? Yes No
- Do the lounges or other sitting areas have pleasant views? Yes No
- What activities does the home offer in the communal areas?
-
- Do the communal areas have televisions, access to Wi-Fi and telephone points? Yes No
- Do the communal areas have quiet areas? Yes No
- Are the communal areas arranged to encourage socialisation? Yes No
- Can areas and furniture be arranged to allow small groups to socialise? Yes No
- Are toilet facilities within easy reach of the communal areas? Yes No

FOOD

- Is the food prepared on the premises? Yes No
- Is there an on-site chef? Yes No
- Can residents choose where they eat, whether it be in a dining room or in their own room? Yes No
- Do residents have a choice of menu and is this displayed? Yes No
- Does the chef/cook talk with the residents to discuss meal choices? Yes No
- How often is the menu changed?.....
- Can specific dietary and cultural requirements be catered for e.g. gluten-free, vegetarian, vegan, kosher, halal etc? Yes No
- Can residents receive assistance with eating if required? Yes No
- Do residents have access to snacks at any time? Yes No

ACTIVITIES

- Is there a range of activities designed to support individual needs? Yes No
- Are residents encouraged to continue with their hobbies and interests? Yes No
- Do staff consult with residents on the types of activities planned? Yes No
- Does the care home have activity coordinators? Yes No
- Do staff give residents the opportunity to help with activities in the care home, e.g. gardening or cooking? Yes No
- Do staff arrange entertainers and groups of interest to visit? Yes No
- Can residents attend events/activities in the local community? Yes No
- Are there accessible vehicles to transport residents? Yes No
- Are special events, such as birthdays and religious holidays celebrated? Yes No
- Do staff give residents regular exercise opportunities? Yes No

VISITORS

- Does the care home welcome visitors at any time? Yes No
- Does the care home restrict the number of visitors permitted at one time? Yes No
- Where can residents spend time with their visitors?
- Are visitors encouraged to join in with the daily activities at the home? Yes No
- Can visitors accompany residents on outings and trips? Yes No
- Can visitors dine with residents? Yes No
- Are children welcome to visit? Yes No
- Does the care home allow family pets to visit? Yes No

FEES AND CONTRACTS

- Can residents see a copy of the home's terms and conditions? Yes No
- What are the annual/monthly fees?
- What is included in the fee and what may be charged as 'extras'?
- Are fees paid in advance or arrears? Yes No
- How much notice will be given for fee increases?
- What arrangements are there for handling personal money?
-
- What happens if the money runs out?
- What happens if a resident is unhappy with the home once they have moved in?
-
- Can residents stay for a trial period? Yes No

SAFETY AND SECURITY

What measures are taken to reduce the risk of falls?

What call systems are in place if a resident needs help?.....

Is the care home safe inside and in the surrounding areas, including the garden? Yes No

What safeguards are in place for day trips?.....

Is information readily shared with families? Yes No