

Getting independent financial advice



SOMERSET
County Council

Information sheet C4

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Planning for your future care and support needs can be complicated, and funding care can be expensive. Professional advice may be helpful for you (and your family) to identify the most suitable and cost-effective solution.

Everyone is encouraged to seek unbiased, expert advice from independent financial advisors to help work out how to pay for long-term care. Independent financial advisors are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and must take responsibility for the suitability of any product they recommend.

Unlike advisors who are tied to particular providers, specialist care fees advisors can offer advice on products from across the whole market.

You can find a list of independent financial advisors, who are accredited by the Society of Later Life Advisers at www.societyoflaterlifeadvisers.co.uk or you can phone 0333 202 0454.

Remember, any financial advisor who recommends investing your money against specific financial products must be regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Visit: www.fca.org.uk for more information.

There are also a number of organisations that will provide free advice about funding care and support. These are a good place to start if you are looking for information and want to see what sort of options are available.

Here are some organisations that provide independent advice:

- The Money Advice Service website: <https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en> offers information on paying for care or the option to speak to an online advisor. You can phone them on 0300 500 5000.
- The Society of Later Life Advisers: <http://societyoflaterlifeadvisers.co.uk/> can help you find advice on how to make financial plans for care in your old age. You can phone them on 0845 303 2909, or use the website to search for a regulated financial advisor in your area.



- Age UK:
<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/> has a good website with advice for older people and those planning for their later years. You can also phone them on 0800 169 6565
- The NHS Choices website has lots of information on funding care and support: www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide
- Carers UK:
<http://www.carersuk.org/> has a website resource of advice for carers. You can also phone them on 0808 808 7777

Your opportunity to feedback

We welcome your comments about the services you receive. If you would like to tell us what you think, please either:

Contact us by going to our website, www.somerset.gov.uk, or

- Speak to your social care worker
- Phone Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224, or
- Contact the Adults and Health Customer Experience Officer
Floor B2 East
County Hall
Taunton
TA1 4DY
Email: customerexperience@somerset.gov.uk

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