**Choosing a Care Home: A Checklist**

# Location

* Is the home easy to get to for relatives and friends? Is it on a bus route? Does it have car parking?
* Is the home close to public transport and local amenities such as shops, churches or pubs?
* Are the surroundings too noisy?
* Are there interesting things to see outside?
* Are the views pleasant?

# Accommodation

* Is the home well decorated, bright and cheery?
* Is the home clean with attractive decor?
* Does it feel safe and secure or can people wander into the home?
* Is there useful equipment, such as lifts and specially equipped bathrooms?
* Is there wheelchair access indoors and outdoors?
* Are there handrails in hallways and corridors?
* Do residents have their own room and washing facilities?
* If sharing, is this organised to your satisfaction?
* Are bathrooms located conveniently for the rooms?
* Is the call bell system accessible?
* Is there a pleasant outlook from the bedroom window?
* Can you open the windows in the room?
* Can personal possessions be accommodated, or a pet?
* Are there telephone and television sockets?
* Can you have your own telephone with a separate number?
* Are there communal lounge areas both with and without televisions?
* Is there a separate dining room?
* Can you have your own door key?

# Facilities

* Are a variety of activities and outings available?
* Can valuables be secured and are personal possessions insured?
* Are the arrangements for laundry and room cleaning satisfactory?
* Is sufficient medical help available?
* Can residents have their own GP?
* Does a chiropodist/physiotherapist/hairdresser/dentist/optician visit regularly?
* Does someone bring library books?
* Can the home find you the time and space to pursue your present interests and hobbies?
* Does the home provide transport?

# Catering

* Can you join residents for a meal as part of your visit?
* Is there a choice of menu?
* Are special diets catered for?
* Is the choice of food interesting, varied and good quality?
* Can you choose to take meals in your room if desired?
* May your visitors join you for refreshments or meals?
* Are meal times flexible?
* Is alcohol available if you would like it?

# Daily living

* Do you know some of the existing residents?
* Are the staff friendly and caring?
* Do residents look happy and well cared for?
* Do staff receive training?
* Are there adequate staff on duty day and night?
* Does each resident have their own personal care plan?
* Are there set times for getting up, going to bed, or having a bath, or can you choose?
* Are visitors welcome at all times?
* Is there somewhere to see visitors in private?
* Is there a garden and can residents use it?
* Is there somewhere you can get privacy and peace and quiet, other than your bedroom?
* Can you follow your religious practice e.g. attend church services or can a Minister visit you

# Type of care

* Does the home offer the level of care you need?
* If you have a particular condition, does the home have the right experience and staff?
* How well qualified is the Care Manager?
* If you want to, can you or your relatives speak directly with the owner of the Home at any time?

# Fees

* How much are the fees?
* Is it clear exactly what is included in the weekly charges?
* Will the home accommodate you on state support?
* Will the home provide a written contract of the care provided?