

# Planning your future care

Many older people and people with disabilities choose to live at home, but sometimes they need help and support to do this. There are voluntary organisations and community services that can provide you with information to help you choose the best options for you. The aim is to enable you to live safely and independently at home for as long as possible.

Connect to Support is a new free website to help people seeking social care or support in the Bradford District. You can find everything you need from this website to help you with your support; from local to national products and services, plus information, advice and much more. This and other information can be found at [www.connecttosupport.org/bradford](http://www.connecttosupport.org/bradford). If you do not have access to the internet information can be obtained from advice and support centres within your local community. ([Click here for list of customer service centres](#)).

## What support is available from Bradford Adult Services?

The time may come when you need more support than you or your family feel able to arrange independently. Bradford Adult Services can provide you with telephone advice and if appropriate we can discuss with you the option of carrying out an assessment of your needs. The aim is to explore the options available to you to help you make a decision about your future.

Social care is not free to everyone however we will always provide advice and support. You may be eligible for financial help depending on your income, savings and capital assets. To work out how much you might need to pay we would carry out a financial assessment which would be completed by our specialist financial team. If you choose not to have a financial assessment then you would have to pay for all your support.

Within the assessment of your needs we will initially consider options such as telecare, basic equipment, minor adaptations and enablement. These services are designed to help you regain daily living skills and/or improve your confidence, for example following a sudden illness, which may have included a stay in hospital, or trying to reverse a steady decline in skills due to the progression of a long term illness.

Once these options have been explored the assessment will consider if longer term support is required and assess your eligibility for financial support from the council using the Fair Access to Care (FACS) criteria and a financial assessment. We will also assess the needs of your carer and take this information into consideration. For more information on these services, the assessment process or the governments eligibility FACS criteria please visit our website <http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc> or ring Adult Services Access Point on 01274 435400.

However, if you need a lot of care and feel that you are unable to continue to live at home, even with support, you may need to think about alternative housing arrangements such as extra care housing or supported housing. For information on agencies that can provide housing related support please visit our website [www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/housing/supporting\\_people](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/housing/supporting_people).

An alternative option is residential care or a nursing home [www.careservicesbradford.co.uk](http://www.careservicesbradford.co.uk). This is a big step and you will need to carefully consider everything involved, including the cost. The financial implications vary depending upon individual circumstances however we would advise everyone to obtain advice before making any long term decisions. Independent information is available on voluntary organisations websites such as Age UK, Citizens Advice and other organisations involved in promoting the welfare of older people. You can contact Adult Services Access Point on 01274 435400 where advice can be given regarding the support you can expect from the council.

As a rough guide you should expect to pay the full cost of the care homes fees unless your assets, savings and income are very low (less than a total value of £23,250 in 2013-2014). If your savings and income are below this level you may be eligible for financial support from the council. If you approach the council for support a financial assessment and care assessment will need to be carried out. This will consider if you could be supported to live in the community or need continued residential home or nursing home care. If you're assessed as requiring residential care and the council has assessed that they will pay towards the cost we will only do this up to an agreed limit. This may restrict your choice of residential home and if you are in an existing home which does not accept our rate this could result in you moving to another home. Information can be obtained on the website at [www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/health\\_well-being\\_and\\_care/adult\\_care/money/paying\\_for\\_care\\_residential.htm](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/health_well-being_and_care/adult_care/money/paying_for_care_residential.htm) or you can contact Adult Services Access Point on 01274 435400.