

## Third party payments

If the home you choose costs more than the rate the Council usually pays for someone with your needs, you will have the choice to ask someone else to make an additional payment.

If there is no-one available to supply the extra payment, you can ask the Council to find you another placement at their normal rate. If, however, you do decide to live in the more expensive home and you have someone who is able to make an additional payment for you, they will have to pay the difference between the Council's rate and the amount the home charges. This additional payment is often referred to as a 'top-up' or 'third party top-up'. You should ask what additional services or facilities you or your relative are receiving for the extra money you are paying.

The law says that you are not allowed to make this additional payment yourself, except in limited circumstances. Therefore, the additional payment has to be made by someone else, for example, a family member or charity. Before anyone agrees to make additional payments on your behalf they should be aware that the amount could change, usually increase, once a year and they need to be confident that they can sustain the payments for as long as they are required. If the additional payments stop being paid for any reason, then you should seek help and advice via Adult Services Direct on 01274 435400.

Once it has been established that someone is willing and able to make these payments they will be asked to sign an agreement to formalise the arrangement. Because the financing of care is a complex area it is advisable to contact the social worker who is arranging your placement with you or Adult Services Direct on 01274 435400 to ask for advice and individual guidance.