



Live-In Care: *One-to-one care in the home you love.*

Britain's older population is set to increase dramatically, with the number of over 65's increasing by 51% by 2030. Public services are already feeling the pressure and care homes are over-crowded and under-staffed as it is. With the impending influx of those needing an extra hand looming large, alternatives to residential care need to be considered, live-in care being one such solution.

Nearly half a million older people are hidden away in care homes, out of sight and out of mind. Not only damaging for those kept from their loved ones but we also suffer as a whole community, missing out on the invaluable voice of experience that our older generation provide. Caring for older people within their own home allows them to retain as much independence as possible as well as to continue being part of their much-loved communities.

The NHS is already straining under pressure caused by an increase in older patients, with age related ailments such as

dementia and arthritis being among the most common reasons for hospitalisation. Providing the older generation with adequate care that can handle these conditions by staff who receive appropriate training could easily prevent many hospital admissions.

Care homes are struggling as it is with tight budgets and often specialist training is over-looked causing quality of care to suffer as a result. Live-in care professionals, such as those provided by Bluebird Care, are hand-picked for each unique placement and are given training tailored to meet the specific requirements of the client. With just the one customer to care for, the carer is able to devote more time to carry out the basic tasks that are so often forgotten or overlooked in residential care homes.

As a nationwide provider, Bluebird Care works to accredited training and induction standards and are able to provide full support and supervision in person with the management team on

hand to oversee any issues and to offer a fully supported care service. Bluebird Care completes all the necessary employment checks, such as with the police or criminal records authorities and care worker references. Each care worker receives on-going training and support while they are looking after you at home. We asked Kevin Maslen, Operations Director at Burnham based Bluebird Care to give his perspective on a number of questions frequently asked when families are considering live-in care for their loved ones.

Q. What does live-in Care entail?

A. Rather than several visits from home care assistants each day, your loved one would have a dedicated carer to provide the care they need twenty-four hours a day, every day. This way they can enjoy independent living in their own home, but with the advantages of care on the spot

whenever it is needed. Receiving this one to one care supports the growth of a fantastic working relationship between carer and customer providing the stability, real time support and continuity of care.

Q. What happens if the regular caregiver becomes ill or needs to leave at short notice?

A. Although the live-in care package is a partnership between a regular caregiver and your loved one they are both supported by a large local team of carers, supervisors, office staff and care managers that are never more than thirty minutes away. Providing this local infrastructure ensures we can respond rapidly to the changing needs of both the carer and customer,

we can arrange breaks, hospital visits and introduce a new carer on the same day in the event of unplanned circumstances.

Q. What do I need to consider to be ready for a live in package of care?

A. Our management team can support you and your loved one with all the information you will require and assess the customers' needs to ensure an individual package of care. One thing to take into consideration is carer accommodation. A live-in carer must have their own uncluttered room with a suitable bed and preferably with a functioning heat source. The carer must have access to a shared or private bathroom and ideally Wi-Fi so they can communicate regularly with the office

and their family. We ask that every effort is made for the live-in carer to feel supported and cared for to enable them to concentrate on doing a fantastic job.

Q. How do you monitor the quality of both the caregiver and the package of care you provide?

A. Bluebird Care uses a software system which is available on our carers phones to collect real time data around the tasks completed each and every day. Our carers and management team will also be available to spot check and supervise the package of care regularly ensuring our high standards are met consistently and any issues or concerns can be resolved promptly.

Home is where the best care is by your side

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What we offer

We offer everything from personal care to shopping, cleaning or social visits. In fact everything you need to stay in the comfort of your own home.

Alternative

Bluebird Care offers a realistic cost effective alternative to residential care. With familiar friends, relatives and possessions around, Bluebird Care 'just happens'.

Our staff

Our staff are caring, trained to give medication and police checked.

