

Your Guide to Care Funding in Somerset



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Navigating the complexities of adult social care funding can be challenging. If you reside in Somerset and are seeking financial assistance for care services, understanding the available options and the processes involved is crucial. This guide provides an overview of the funding opportunities offered by Somerset Council and outlines the steps to access them.

1. Care and Support Assessment

Before exploring funding options, it's essential to determine your eligibility for care services. Somerset County Council offers a Care and Support Assessment, which evaluates your daily living requirements and identifies suitable support services. This assessment is free and serves as the foundation for any subsequent financial assistance.

How to Request an Assessment:

- **Phone:** Contact Somerset Direct at 0300 123 2224.

During the assessment, a social care professional will discuss your needs, the support required, and any existing assistance you receive. This comprehensive evaluation ensures that the support provided aligns with your specific needs.

2. Financial Assessment (Means Test)

Following the Care and Support Assessment, if you're deemed eligible for support, a Financial Assessment will be conducted to determine your contribution towards the cost of care. This assessment considers your income, savings, and assets.

Key Thresholds:

- **Savings over £23,250:** You're expected to pay the full cost of your care.
- **Savings between £14,250 and £23,250:** You'll contribute an amount based on your financial assessment.
- **Savings below £14,250:** You may be eligible for maximum financial support, contributing only from your income.

For a detailed explanation, refer to Somerset County Council's [Help with paying for care and support](#) page.

3. Types of Care Services and Associated Costs

Somerset County Council provides various care services, each with specific funding considerations:

a. Home Care (Non-Residential Services)

If you receive care services at home, the council will assess your financial situation to determine your contribution. Details are available on the [Home care and support](#) page.

b. Residential and Nursing Care

For those moving into residential or nursing homes, a separate financial assessment is conducted. If you own property, its value may be considered in the assessment. Information about this process can be found on the [Paying for your care](#) page.

4. Direct Payments

For greater control over your care, you can opt for Direct Payments. This arrangement provides funds directly to you, enabling you to arrange and manage your care services. Guidance on obtaining and using Direct Payments is available on the [Direct Payments](#) page.

5. Deferred Payment Agreements

If your wealth is primarily tied up in property, you might be eligible for a Deferred Payment Agreement. This scheme allows you to defer care home costs, with the council covering expenses upfront and reclaiming the amount when your property is sold. Eligibility criteria and details are outlined on the [Paying for your care](#) page.

6. Additional Support and Benefits

Beyond the primary funding avenues, consider exploring:

- **Carer's Assessments:** If you have someone providing regular care, they might be eligible for support. Details can be found on the [Caring for someone](#) page.

- **Benefits:** You may be entitled to additional financial support through various benefits. Information is available on the [Help with paying for care and support](#) page.

7. Seeking Independent Financial Advice

Making decisions about care funding is significant. It's advisable to consult with an independent financial adviser to understand all available options and implications. The council's [Help with paying for care and support](#) page provides additional resources and guidance.

How Care with Confidence Helps for FREE.

At [Care with Confidence](#), we know that navigating care funding can feel overwhelming — especially when you're already juggling the emotional and practical demands of finding the right support. That's why we created this guide: to offer you a clear, simple starting point, built on years of experience helping families just like yours.

But you don't have to do it alone.

We're only ever a phone call away — and we're happy to take your call out of hours, so you can speak to someone when you get home from work, when the house is quiet, or simply when it suits you best. Whether you want to talk through your funding options, understand what support is available, or just need a reassuring voice on the other end of the line, we're here for you.

You can feel confident in the advice you receive from Care with Confidence. This guide is just the first stage of support— and if you'd rather skip the pages and talk it through instead, that's absolutely fine. Our mission is to provide the information you need, in the way that feels most comfortable for you.

Whatever stage you're at, we're here to help you move forward — with confidence.

Care with Confidence x



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