

# Paying for Care - Getting the right financial advice

Accessing quality, specialist financial advice is crucial to older people to enable the planning and financing of care arrangements in later life. Paying for care is a long-term commitment and you need to be sure that you can afford any agreements you make. This requires good financial advice and support to make best use of what is available.

It's important for people to be able to access trusted advice and information from advisors with the appropriate knowledge and expertise to help people with their financial affairs. Finding a specialist advisor is not always easy; to help resolve this, the industry body, [Society of Later Life Advisers](http://societyoflaterlifeadvisers.co.uk/) (SoLLA), was founded in 2008 as a not-for-profit organisation. SoLLA will accredit Independent Financial Advisers who have demonstrated that they are trustworthy and sufficiently informed to provide good advice to people planning their care. Customers will usually be offered a fixed fee arrangement for advice and a requirement of registration with SoLLA is that rates are given out at the initial free consultation. **You can find a local, fully accredited adviser quickly and easily by visiting <http://societyoflaterlifeadvisers.co.uk/>**

Some financial advisers have passed the Chartered Insurance Institute exam CF8 (Long Term Care) to demonstrate their knowledge, without joining SoLLA. This qualification was designed to prevent the mis-selling of financial services needed to fund care. At present we are not aware of a list of these people working locally, but without this or a similar qualification they may not be able to support you in choosing the right way to use your money.

The council provides information and advice to help you to understand the market. We cannot recommend specific organisations to provide financial advice. There may be other organisations that are qualified to provide advice, of which we are not currently aware, so you are advised to ask around to be sure that you have explored all the opportunities available to you.

*This information can be made available in other languages or formats (including large print, Braille, on CD) on request. Contact the Information Officer on 01225 477983 or email [information\\_officer@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:information_officer@bathnes.gov.uk)*