

Glossary of Accommodation Terms

Care Home for People with Dementia

These are registered care homes that are specifically designed for people with dementia. The facilities are normally broken down into a number of smaller units with communal areas, have secure garden space and walkways around the home to minimise the number of dead-ends. The care home is required to be registered and regulated by the Care Quality Commission and will employ specially trained staff to care for people with dementia. The ratio of staff in these specialist care homes to residents is normally greater than in other residential or nursing homes due to the dependency of the residents residing within them.

Community Extra Care / Virtual Extra Care Housing

There are various models of community or virtual extra care housing. It could enable people living in communities surrounding an extra care scheme to benefit from some of the provision whilst living in the wider community through in-reach and out-reach services. These could include personal care, housing support, meals provision, social and leisure activities and clinical appointments and is often underpinned by the use of telecare technologies.

It could also provide floating care and support into existing facilities, i.e. a sheltered housing scheme, to enable individuals to utilise the benefits of extra care housing whilst not necessarily residing within a purpose built scheme.

Extra Care Housing

Extra care housing is a growing part of the housing market for people. It can be owned, rented, part owned / rented (shared ownership) or leasehold. Extra care housing can broadly be described as housing into which a range of care and support services can be delivered on-site 24 hours a day.

Extra care is gaining a reputation for offering accommodation and care to people who would otherwise be frequent users of acute services (largely because they cannot look after themselves in unsuitable housing). Models of extra care are various, because it is a concept rather than a housing type.

Generally, an extra care scheme is a development of flats and / or bungalows with a manager and the availability of care and support to tenants of leaseholders 24 hours a day, usually supported by a lifeline and other technological assistance. There is normally a café or meal provision available and an additional range of services and activities which are open to tenants or leaseholders and other living in the surrounding area.

Housing Association

Generally (although not exclusively) a not-for-profit voluntary organisation that will develop or purchase property and manage it either for rent or for shared ownership.

Since the withdrawal of the facility for local authorities to build housing, Housing Associations have been the main providers of new social housing.

Residential Care Home

Residential care homes provide a safe environment, with prepared meals, companionship, activities and outings. Individual accommodation will usually comprise of a bedroom, with ensuite facilities if available, and access to the communal space which will include a lounge, dining room and activity room. Qualified care staff are on duty 24 hours a day to ensure that residents personal care requirements, i.e. bathing, dressing, feeding, and assistance with mobility, are addressed. All residential homes are required to be registered and regulated by the Care Quality Commission.

Mixed Tenure Extra Care

This term relates to extra care facilities that are available across a variety of tenures and can be available for rent, shared ownership or outright sale (leasehold).

Nursing Care Home

This is a care home that is registered to provide nursing care services and will have qualified nursing staff on duty at all times. The nursing care cost of the placement is paid by the NHS at agreed set levels. All nursing homes are required to be registered and regulated by the Care Quality Commission.

Shared Ownership

This is where an individual purchases a proportion of the property, normally up to 85%, and rents the remainder from the housing association for which a rental charge will be payable.

Sheltered Housing

Sheltered housing may be rented or owner occupied accommodation and the majority have a scheme manager or warden and a community alarm service. The scheme manager may be on site or shared between a number of schemes. They do not offer personal care but offer low-level support including emergency support often through a linked alarm system. They also help older people obtain the care and support they need and the support they offer includes things like help with form filling, general safety checks and enabling residents to organise or access other facilities and services. Some schemes have communal facilities such as a common room, laundry, guestroom and gardens and some will include a restaurant and the provision of hot meals.

Telecare

Telecare is sometimes called assistive technology, and aims to promote independence, improve safety at home and provide reassurance for individuals and their carers. It usually consists of a base unit, linked to a telephone and a personal

pendant which is worn around the neck, on the wrist or attached to a belt. There are also a number of sensors that automatically monitor the home environment. These are linked to the base unit without the need for wiring and can detect potential dangers such as gas, smoke or overflowing water. When the alarm is active, trained staff at a monitoring centre will respond and, if necessary, arrange for someone to visit at anytime of the day or night. They may also contact the emergency services if necessary.