

Medical items-

Medication - Please ensure that you have enough medication for the duration of your stay. The medication must be clearly labelled, in date and in the Pharmacy boxes. If a dossett box is provided it MUST be accompanied by the Patient Information Leaflet provided by your Pharmacist.

Continence aids,
pads/pants/catheter bags etc

Pressure mattress/cushion

Creams/ointments

Diet supplements

Wound dressings

Medical cover

Should you require medical attention during your stay, the Home will temporarily register you with their Doctor. However please inform your Doctors Surgery / District Nurse regarding your stay, to find out if they would be prepared to continue to provide services or give medical advice to the home.

If you have a medical or hospital appointment which occurs during

your respite stay, please advise the Home at your guest visit / assessment and arrange for the transport to be redirected to the Home. If an escort is required, it is preferable if this can be arranged by family or friends as a Home is not always able to provide a staff member.

General information

Visiting times

Visiting is permitted at most reasonable hours, although please be mindful that other clients needs are taken into consideration.

Making your views known

On admission, each Home will provide you with a copy of their complaints procedure, which explains how to bring to their attention any concerns you may have.

The London Borough of Bexley would also welcome your views on matters relating to the respite service you have received. The Respite Coordinator can be contacted on 020 8836 8032.



Respite Care in Bexley

If you would like to know more about the services the Council provides, or would like either a translation of this document or the information in a different format, please call our Customer Contact Centre on 020 8303 7777 and press 0, quoting reference: 603132/10.08



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What is respite care?

Respite care is a short stay in a Residential or Nursing Home, to enable a carer to take a break from their caring role.

How can I access respite care?

Following your referral for services, a Social Worker will visit you to assess your needs. An application is then prepared by the Social Worker and you will be notified in writing of your respite allocation.

The allocation will run for a whole year and can be used as you wish, at the end of your allocation year, you can contact the Respite Administrator for a further allocation.

Bookings and repeat bookings are made for a maximum of three months in advance, by contacting the Respite Administrator on 020 8836 8264. The Respite Administrator will discuss with you availability of dates and venues. Respite over the Christmas period can be requested but is subject to limited availability.



Can transport be provided to and from respite care?

Please advise the Respite Administrator if transport is required, although transport cannot be provided on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. Generally transport will pick you up between 2pm and 4pm on the day of admission and will return you home before 11.30am on the day you go home. If you are making your own transport arrangements, please arrive at the Home by approximately 3pm and vacate by 11am.

Is there a charge for respite care?

There is a weekly payment for respite care and your Social Worker will advise the current charge at the assessment. Please note that the charge increases each April.

What happens after a booking has been made?

After you have made a booking, the chosen Home will contact you to make arrangements for a home assessment (Nursing Home clients) or a pre 'guest' visit to the Home (Residential Home clients) The purpose of this is to allow a care plan to be put in place, to ensure that the home is able to meet all your care needs and answer any questions you may have.

The guest visit usually involves spending a day at the Home (transport will be provided if required) allowing you to view the home and stay for a meal.

Every home has its own Statement of Purpose which provides detailed information that may be useful prior to admission.

Admission – what to take with you

Clothing -

Please ensure that all items are clearly labelled

- Day wear
- Night wear
- Underwear
- Shoes and slippers
- Coat

Toiletries -

please include the following:

- Denture pot/ tooth brush/paste
- Hairbrush/comb
- Soap/Shampoo/Bubble-bath
- Any other product you might wish to use

General items

- Zimmer frame/walking aids
- Spectacles (labelled)

Money -
To purchase items such as newspapers, hairdressing, outings, toiletries etc

(Please note that a lockable facility will be provided or the Home would be happy to manage money on a clients behalf)

Items such as bedding and towels will be provided by the Home.