

Options for people with dementia



Supporting those with dementia

If anyone is concerned about dementia it is important that the person you are worried about sees a GP to get a diagnosis. It is a scary thing to do but it allows you and your friends and family to make decisions about your future and what would best suit you including:

- Staying at home with increased support
- Moving to sheltered or retirement housing with extra support
- Moving to sheltered or retirement housing with dementia support
- Moving to a care home supplying personal and nursing care

To help this decision along it is recommended to get an assessment done either via a GP, Older People's clinic or social services. Everyone is entitled to an assessment even if they have savings. This will help assess at which stage Dementia is at, what support needs would suit that person best and would the accommodation chosen to address those needs.

Having a Lasting Power of Attorney may help

Many people also appoint a Lasting Power of Attorney. This would be someone that the person with dementia knows and trusts to be able to make decisions for them if it gets to a stage where they cannot make decisions themselves. There are two types of Powers of Attorney.

Property and Financial Affairs

This includes helping someone decide how to:

- Open, close and use their bank or building society accounts
- Claim, receive and use their benefits, pensions, and allowances
- Pay household and other bills
- Buy and sell their house
- Manage their property and investments

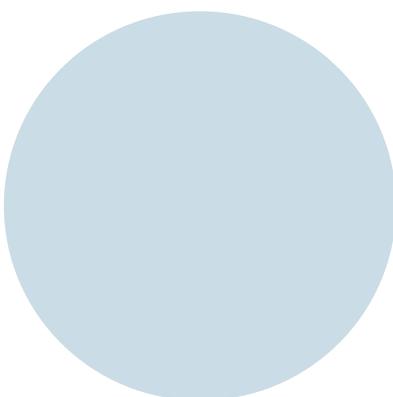
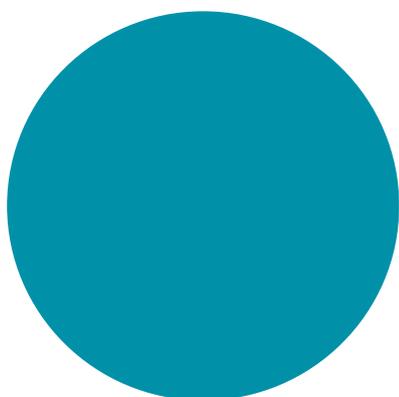
Health and welfare

This includes helping someone decide how to:

- Give or refuse consent to types of health care, including medical treatment
- Get help and support from social services
- Decide where the donor lives - for example, whether the donor stays in their own home or moves into a care home
- Find a good care home or care providers
- Deal with day-to-day matters like the donor's diet, dress, or daily routine

You can choose to make both types or just one. You can appoint the same person to be your attorney for both, or you can have different attorneys. It is also possible to have more than one attorney for each type of Power of Attorney. They can make decisions together or separately.

All LPAs must be registered at the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) before they can be used. The OPG is a government body that handles the registration of LPAs.



Who can make an LPA?

You need to be over 18 and have what is called mental capacity to make an LPA. This means that you must be able to understand what an LPA is and what making one means.

When should I make an LPA?

Dementia is progressive which means that it will become more difficult for you to make plans and decisions over time. It is therefore a good idea to start thinking about making an LPA as soon as you can.

Talking about LPAs with your family or close friends can be a good way to think about what you want for the future. It will also help them to know and understand your wishes and preferences.

To find out a bit more on making a Lasting Power of Attorney click on this website: www.lastingpowerofattorney.service.gov.uk/home

Claiming benefits

Depending on your circumstances you may also be entitled to claim certain benefits if you are on a low income, including the following this will bring some more money in to help fund these costs and alleviate some stress.

Use our benefits calculator on our website: www.licensedtradecharity.org.uk/benefits-calculator to see if you are entitled to any benefits.

Alternatively log onto the Gov.uk website and check out their information: www.gov.uk/browse/benefits



The Licensed Trade Charity are available 24/7, if you'd like to talk about your situation, we can help you. Contact us for confidential, free of charge support. If you are experiencing any of the issues covered in this fact sheet, in the first instance call our helpline on:

0808 801 0550

Our Helpline Team will listen without judging and will work with you as best they can to achieve a positive outcome. If you prefer, you can email: enquiries@ltcharity.org.uk or visit our website at www.licensedtradecharity.org.uk, it's full of useful information about the kind of issues we know people who work in the licensed trade face.



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Note: This guide is not exhaustive. It has been produced by the Licensed Trade Charity to provide you with an overview of the issue in question. We are grateful to all specialist organisations who support our charity and are available to you should you be experiencing this particular issue.
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