

Leaving the Royal Berkshire Hospital

This leaflet explains what you might expect to happen now that you are well enough to leave hospital but still need care.

Now you are ready to leave hospital, a choice needs to be made about your further care, and that choice will be made with your full involvement and with the advice and support of your local Social Services and your clinical team. The main options are care in your own home, care in a Community Hospital or care in a care home. There is a separate leaflet for each, so please ask for these to give you more information to help you understand and take a full part in making the necessary decisions

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Government introduced new 'Pathways' for leaving hospital, some of them supported by funding. The funding has now finished, meaning the cost of care at home or in a care home on leaving hospital is now **chargeable** and you will usually need to pay something towards receiving care at home or to stay in a care home. Your local Social Services will make a financial assessment to determine how much you should contribute from the date you leave hospital. How this is done is set by the Government and is reviewed each year.

What can you expect to happen?

Your local Social Services and your clinical team will work with you to plan and set up your onward care needs. There are various types of care that can be delivered in your own home and, if needed, there are several types of care homes should this be the care you need. Each care home offers different types of care and accommodation, and *which* is right for you will depend on your individual needs.

The therapists on the ward along with social workers will need to ask you questions about your home and financial circumstances to determine how your onward care is funded. If you have more than a certain level of savings you will need to self-fund your own care. You will still have support from the ward clinical team and Social Services to help you make the right choice – care that can meet all of your needs now and for the future. They can also help set up the care. There is a separate leaflet on self-funding care.

Where can you find more information?

You can go online to find out more about your local authority (council) policies and charges and you can find the government guidance as part of The Care Act 2014.

