**Long-term Care**

The cost of long term care is no longer an issue just for the wealthy. People who have worked hard all their lives and been prudent in saving for their family’s futures can be affected by this.

It is important to address this issue as early as possible, to avoid your spouse or children having their security eaten away with long term care costs.

Whether a person chooses to go into a private home, or they enter a home by arrangement with the local authority, the resident will be expected to pay for the service.

When a resident cannot afford to pay the full charge, an assessment of income and capital will be made, to ascertain ability to pay in accordance with regulations.

Currently (2023), if you have over £23,250 you must pay full fees (known as being self-funding).

Between £14,250 and £23,250 you contribute from income included in the means test, such as pensions, plus an assumed, or ‘tariff’ income based on your capital between £14,250 and £23,250. The council pay the remaining cost of your care.

If you have less than £14,250 you no longer pay a ‘tariff’ income based on your capital, but you must continue paying from income included in the means test. The council pay the remaining cost of your care.

There are disregards that apply to your home if jointly owned, or if a dependent already lives there with you (and is generally over the age of 60).

We can advise you on these matters, and on ways you might be able to preserve your assets by deferring the costs of care.

If you would like more information about long-term care, there are a number of fact sheets available on the Age Concern website.