

Independent guide to care and support in Berkshire - a crucial time for information

A new, updated, independent care services directory has been published today which gives readers crucial information on how to access, and pay for, care services throughout Berkshire.

With Government plans to cap the costs of social care now postponed, it's never been more important to have impartial information to guide you through choosing and paying for care and support. The directory helps readers to understand their options, highlights where to go for advice and gives information on how the paying for care system works.

With no cap on care costs at present, this independent information is invaluable to help navigate the system.

The new edition of the independent publication and accompanying website give information on all aspects of arranging care and support in Berkshire. It includes how to stay independent for as long as possible, the different care and support options available and what to look for when choosing a care provider. It also offers guidance on important issues such as paying for care and what financial assistance may be available from the local authority. There are comprehensive listings of all registered care services throughout Berkshire, plus checklists to help you ask the right questions when visiting services.

The directory will be available throughout the region from outlets including carers' centres, hospitals, GP surgeries, Age UK and the Alzheimer's Society. It can be downloaded from www.carechoices.co.uk and is also available in spoken word. Copies of the directory, further help and information can also be accessed via the directory's free telephone helpline on 0800 389 2077.

Robert Chamberlain, Managing Director of the directory's publisher, Care Choices, commented: "This is an invaluable source of information for anyone considering

short or long term care in Berkshire, and contains vital information to help people decide what type of care and support is best for them.

“With no cap on the cost of care, finding a care service for yourself or a loved one that meets their needs and is affordable can be a daunting and unfamiliar task. This new independent directory has been compiled to help people understand the process and offer them reassurance at every step of their journey.”

Care Choices is the UK’s largest independent publisher for social care and adults with additional needs. It is also the largest publisher of care directories for local authorities in England.

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Notes to editors:

Care Choices works alongside industry governing bodies, local authorities and providers to publish impartial guidance for individuals and their families. Care Choices provides unbiased, comprehensive information on choosing care and support.

Care Choices also publishes its directories online at www.carechoices.co.uk which contains a searchable database of all care providers in England.

Care Choices publishes leading social care magazine, Care Management Matters www.caremanagementmatters.co.uk, plus Care Select www.careselect.co.uk which offers readers an emotional and practical guide to choosing and paying for care.

Care Choices also arranges the 3rd Sector Care Awards www.3rdsectorcareawards.co.uk, The Transition Event www.progressmagazine.co.uk/events and CMM Insight www.caremanagementmatters.co.uk/events