

Frequently Asked Questions – General

- 1. What is the forecast demographic of those expecting to need residential care in the next three years?** Forecast information for the next three years is not available but the Office for National Statistics (ONS) states that the care home resident population for those aged 65 and over has remained almost stable since 2001, despite growth of 11.0% in the overall population at this age⁽¹⁾. Plans for services are developed on future projections of population. The ONS estimated that the resident population of Surrey at Mid 2017 was 1,185,300. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) estimates that the proportion of the population of Surrey aged over 65 will increase from 18.6% (220,413) in 2016 to 25.4% (332,613) in 2041 ⁽²⁾.

*Source (1): [Changes in the Older Resident Care Home Population between 2001 and 2011 - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandlife/bulletins/articlesandcommentaries/2017-07-27-changes-in-the-older-resident-care-home-population-between-2001-and-2011)

*Source (2): [The Surrey Context – People & Places – Surrey-i \(surreyi.gov.uk\)](https://www.surrey.gov.uk/consultation-and-information-services/consultation-and-information-services/the-surrey-context-people-and-places)

- 2. My relative pays the full costs of care. If the home they live in is refurbished and costs increase or if the home closes and they move to an independent care home that is more expensive, will they have to pay more?** The law prevents the council from paying for residential/nursing care where people have savings in excess of the capital threshold of £23,250. Anyone who is paying in full for their own care because of capital, will therefore have to pay the full cost of any increased charge because of refurbishment or will have to pay the higher cost if they moved to an alternative, more expensive home. If this were to happen then reasonable notice of at least four weeks would be given.
- 3. My relative contributes to their care costs from their income. If they moved to an independent care home that was more expensive or if the costs at their current home increased as a result of refurbishment, would they be expected to contribute more?** Residents who pay a contribution towards the full cost of the home, will not see a change in their contributions regardless of any increases in care costs. The contribution is based on their means to pay rather than the cost of the placement.
- 4. How many councils run their own residential care services for older people?** There were a total number of 109 councils in England recorded as providing residential care services for older people as of 1 December 2021* ⁽¹⁾. This is out of a total number of 333 councils which include 24 county councils, 181 district councils and 128 unitary councils.

*Source: Care Quality Commission [Using CQC data | Care Quality Commission](https://www.cqc.gov.uk/using-cqc-data)

5. How many vacancies are there in the older people's residential care homes that Surrey County Council has block contracts with? As at 14 November 2021, there were 29 contracted bed vacancies and 31 non-contracted bed vacancies in the homes that the council has block contracts with.

6. Is there any way of challenging the decision once it has been made? Once the decision on the future of the homes has been made by the council's cabinet, there is a period of five working days in which county councillors can 'call-in' or challenge the decision. This can only be done by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the relevant Select Committee or by three or more councillors from more than one political party, and only for the following reasons:

- If there is evidence to show the decision was not made correctly
- If the members are aware of other matters the cabinet did not look at when they made the decision

7. Will there be a choice of care homes should my relative be required to move because of refurbishment or closure? Yes. The council is obliged to follow the Department of Health's Care and Support Statutory Guidance which is issued under the Care Act 2014 ⁽¹⁾. Should residents need to move, an individual's needs will be assessed to identify the care that will meet assessed needs. Surrey County Council will then offer at least two options to the individual that meets the individual's needs (unless there is only one option available that can meet a person's specialist or complex needs).

(1) Department of Health's Care and Support Statutory Guidance Annex A: Choice of accommodation and additional payments [40573_2902364_DH Care Guidance accessible pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/40573/2902364_DH_Care_Guidance_accessible.pdf)