

Ladyman Fails to Solve Care Fees Problem

For Immediate Release

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New Guidance published today does not solve the disparity between what the local authority is prepared to pay for care home costs and the true cost of care. Self-funding older people are expected to pay up to £100 a week or more for their care home places than state funded care home residents in the same home. This standard practice is required by the care home industry to subsidise the below market rate local authorities will pay for care.

Despite the Guidance stating that 'Councils should not set arbitrary ceilings on the amount they expect to pay for an individual's residential care' the bargaining power they have with care homes and because they are cash strapped means the amount they are prepared to pay is considerably less than average and less than many care homes would be prepared to accept, forcing many older people to seek third party top-ups if they want to exercise real choice.

Philip Spiers Director of NHFA says "Steven Ladyman has failed to solve this problem by passing the buck to local authorities. The only real solution would have been for Central Government to have set fair and regional market rates for care and then provided cash strapped councils with the funding they desperately need to pay for it. That is the only way they can deliver the quality and true choice of care our older population deserves."

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