

# nightingale hammerson

## Guide to Fees and Funding

This document is intended as a guide for applicants and/or their relatives/advocates when making an application for residence at Nightingale Hammerson.

The fact that this guide is lengthy merely reflects the complexity of the funding situation; it does not attempt to answer all of the questions. However, we do provide further reference points on more detailed information.

These notes are not intended as a definitive statement of law or of any local authority conditions or requirements. Nightingale Hammerson strongly recommends that you seek independent legal advice from a lawyer, an accountant or the Citizens Advice Bureau before entering into a contract with Nightingale Hammerson.

### **What does Nightingale Hammerson mean by fees?**

The charges per week levied by Nightingale Hammerson for the care provided are currently as follows:

#### **For permanent residency**

<b>Residential</b>	<b>Min £1,240 Max £1,500*</b>
<b>Residential High Dependency</b>	<b>Min £1,370 Max £1,630</b>
<b>Residential Dementia</b>	<b>£1,440</b>
<b>Residential Dementia High dependency</b>	<b>£1,550</b>
<b>Nursing</b>	<b>£1,670</b>
<b>Nursing High dependency</b>	<b>£1,840</b>
<b>Nursing Dementia</b>	<b>£1,840</b>
<b>Nursing Dementia High dependency</b>	<b>£1,930</b>

#### **For respite residency**

<b>Residential</b>	<b>Min: £1,340 Max: £1,600*</b>
<b>Residential High Dependency</b>	<b>Min £1,470 Max £1,730</b>
<b>Residential Dementia</b>	<b>£1,540</b>
<b>Residential Dementia High dependency</b>	<b>£1,650</b>
<b>Nursing</b>	<b>£1,770</b>
<b>Nursing High dependency</b>	<b>£1,940</b>
<b>Nursing Dementia</b>	<b>£1,940</b>
<b>Nursing Dementia High dependency</b>	<b>£2,030</b>

\*depending on household

### **What does funding mean?**

This is the source from which fees are paid. Types of funding are

**Private:** The full fees are paid from the applicant's personal money.

**Local Authority:** The Home receives a proportion of its fees from a sponsoring local authority. The local authority will also assess an amount as a contribution that the applicant is required to make towards the cost of care (this is known as a Personal Contribution).

**Personal Contribution:** This is the amount that the local authority will have assessed as being the contribution the applicant is required to make towards the cost of care. It will take into account all sources of income together with any savings. The local authority will require this personal contribution to be made as part of the agreement with Nightingale Hammerson and the local authority will fund the difference between its gross fee level and the personal contribution.

**Shortfall:** The gap between monies which may be received from the above sources and Nightingale Hammerson's normal charge is known as the shortfall.

### **What happens about the shortfall?**

A 'third party', i.e. usually a relative or next of kin, who is financially able to partially or fully meet the shortfall, will be asked to make a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contribution. The local authority will assess the 'third party' to ensure they are willing, able and fully informed about the decision to make a contribution. They will be asked to enter into a written agreement with the local authority thus ensuring that ongoing 3<sup>rd</sup> party contributions are honoured. A resident cannot be a third party.

### **How will I know which kind of funding applies to the applicant?**

Generally, if the applicant's combined income and assets are below £23,250 he/she may qualify for local authority funding. Social Services will carry out a financial assessment of the applicant's income and assets and will advise him/her of their decision.

### **What will the Social Services financial assessment take into account?**

Social Services will require full details regarding all of the applicant's finances including any investment income, occupational pension etc. In addition, the applicant will be required to disclose all assets such as ownership of property, investments, savings etc. Questions may also be asked as to whether any property may have been disposed of and, if so, to whom, for how much and when.

### **What if the applicant has given away his/her money or assets, including the property, to their children?**

In cases where tangible assets have been disposed of or given away, the local authority may decide the applicant has deliberately divested themselves of their assets and may refuse to fund the applicant.

### **If the applicant has disposed of assets and gifted property and the local authority agrees to fund a contract, is Nightingale Hammerson obliged to accept this?**

No. The amount of funding from the local authority is less than it would be if the resident pays full private fees, leaving a deficit in the Home's income. For this reason, Nightingale Hammerson will insist on a third party contribution.

### **If the applicant's income and assets are below £23,250, will they qualify for funding automatically?**

No, not necessarily. Social Services will still have to be satisfied that the applicant meets the criteria both for funding and for the need to be in a care home.

### **How do Social Services become involved?**

When an application is received and it appears that the applicant may be entitled to local authority funding, Nightingale Hammerson will advise the applicant/family/POA to contact the

Social Services department of the authority where the applicant lives, asking them to assess eligibility for care. In cases where the applicant already has a social worker Nightingale Hammerson should be informed at the time of making an application. For admissions from hospital there is normally a hospital social worker who becomes involved if it is felt that the applicant is unable to return home.

### **What happens when Nightingale Hammerson accepts an applicant who is local authority funded?**

On admission the applicant will need to notify the Pension Service, i.e. the people who pay retirement pension, income support, attendance allowance, etc that they have moved into a care home. Social Services will notify the applicant of any contribution towards Nightingale Hammerson charges that they will have to make.

The applicant will need to ensure that they have enough income to cover this contribution. It may be necessary for an application to be made for pension credit.

Currently Nightingale Hammerson invoices three months in arrears for any contribution the resident may have been assessed to make. This is invoiced directly to the resident or next of kin who has been appointed to act on their behalf.

Funded residents are unable to receive Attendance Allowance after the first four weeks of residence. Any payment of this benefit made after four weeks will have to be returned by the applicant to the Pension Service.

### **What is a Personal Allowance?**

Currently the Government states that funded residents are entitled to retain a weekly personal allowance of £24.90. This is taken into account by Social Services when they carry out the financial assessment. This is intended for the personal use of residents, such as hairdressing, toiletries and confectionery. If somebody else acts as an appointee it is their duty to provide this amount to the resident.

### **What about savings?**

In respect of savings, the current amount that a resident is allowed to have without it being taken into account is £14,250. Between this sum and £23,250 a resident will be assessed to make a contribution from their capital as well as their income.

### **What happens when Nightingale Hammerson admits a privately funded resident?**

Nightingale Hammerson will ask for a four-week deposit and full month in advance to be paid alongside the cost of the remainder of the month from the date of admission. This will need to be paid prior to the date of a resident's permanent admission to Nightingale House. Fees are invoiced quarterly (Jan/Apr/Jun/Oct) in advance but payment is collected monthly by direct debit. If the applicant is entitled to Attendance Allowance, this entitlement will continue after admission. If the applicant does not currently receive this, you can check whether or not they are eligible by visiting the following website:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/attendance-allowance-claim-form>

Attendance Allowance is a tax-free benefit for people aged 65 and over who need help with personal care because they are physically or mentally disabled. Attendance Allowance is not affected by any savings or income you may have. The amounts depend on how much your disability affects you. Permanent residents who are local authority funded can only claim for the first four weeks of their residency. There are two rates of Attendance Allowance, which are currently as follows:

<i>Attendance Allowance</i>	<i>Weekly Rate</i>
<i>Higher Rate</i>	<i>£89.15</i>
<i>Lower Rate</i>	<i>£59.70</i>

For private nursing residents, Nightingale Hammerson will arrange for the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to assess the applicant for the National Health Service funded nursing care contribution (FNC). The current weekly rate is £183.92

This assessment is carried out entirely independently of Nightingale Hammerson and any funds received by us in respect of NHS funded nursing care will be credited to the applicant's account. This may be subject to change in the future.

### **What happens if a privately funded resident's assets fall below £23,250?**

If a resident's assets and income diminish, there is the possibility of an entitlement to local authority funding. *The resident or representative should notify Nightingale Hammerson at the earliest opportunity as assets approach approximately £30,000.*

Full financial details will need to be given to the local authority (Wandsworth) at that time. The relevant form will be provided by Nightingale Hammerson. In such cases the Third Party Contribution policy will be invoked.

### **What does the Social Services financial assessment take into account?**

If the local authority agrees to fund a resident's care, their classification will change to that of a local authority funded resident. Any information given for such residents at the beginning of this document will apply.

### **Is there anything else I need to know?**

Yes. Nightingale Hammerson and its staff are here to help. Entering into a care home is a major life event and we do our best to ensure that the process runs as smoothly as possible for the prospective resident and for their family.

### **Nightingale Hammerson**

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Any questions relating to any of the above matters should be referred to the Residents Services Manager in the first instance who will then direct the enquiry to the appropriate person or authority for further information. The above rates and information are quoted as of April 2020. As you will see, the funding situation is complex. It is also subject to frequent change due to evolving government legislation. Further information can be obtained from the Freephone Age UK Information Line on 0800 169 2081. This organisation provides a range of highly informative leaflets.