



News release

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For immediate release

Continuing care review specialist slams legal cost of getting back care fees

Cheselden Continuing Care has slammed the huge fees that some families are paying lawyers to help them get back care home costs that should never have been paid. Managing Director Colin Ball spoke out in the wake of recent publicity around three cases – all handled by law firms – where over £350,000 has been repaid by the NHS to families whose relatives should have been awarded fully-funded NHS continuing care. He comments: *'Whilst it is good news that these families have finally obtained restitution, it is wrong that they are paying massive legal costs to reclaim money.'*

Cheselden – the UK's leading independent continuing care review specialist – is also calling on the Government to reform the current system of continuing care assessment. It wants both the differences between personal and nursing care and the types of care that can and cannot be funded to be fully clarified. Says Colin: *'Again and again it takes specialists such as Cheselden to unravel and explain the complexities of continuing care and care costs – as acknowledged experts, lawyers as well as families often ask us for advice and information. The current system is confusing, unfair and lets so many people down. Cheselden deals with hundreds of enquiries from people like Mrs Eyton-Jones who have been forced to sell their homes (or are faced with the prospect of doing so) to fund care for themselves or a relative that should be paid for by the NHS. Many of these people are at breaking point and have lost all faith in the system.'*

Colin goes on to explain Cheselden's unique approach to helping families reclaim care fees that have been wrong paid: *'To avoid putting further stress on these families, Cheselden will fund cases that we consider have a fair claim against the NHS for wrongly paid fees. We only charge a set fee if the case is successful – there are no upfront fees and no nasty surprises. We believe that families should never have to pay lawyers huge amounts of money to fight for money that is theirs by right.'*

For more information about continuing care and to find out if you may have a case for reclaiming care costs, please visit Cheselden's website, www.cheselden.co.uk, or call 0845 659 1588.

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For further information, please contact Colin Ball on 0845 659 1588 or at cball@cheselden.co.uk.

Notes to editors

Cheselden Continuing Care Ltd is the leading independent continuing care review specialist in England and Wales. Cheselden helps patients and families who have been turned down for funding to pursue their case for free NHS Continuing Healthcare and for restitution of monies that have been wrongly paid for care. Founded in 2007, we have already reviewed hundreds of cases.

Cheselden was established to bring to an end to the confusing and often unlawful restrictions on the provision of free continuing healthcare across the country. We are based in the North West of England and operate nationally. Unlike law firms, we do not charge an upfront fee to help our clients. Instead we operate on a 'no risk' basis whereby our client pays us a pre-agreed, set fee (a proportion of the monies repaid by the NHS) if and when their case is successful. There is no charge if a case does not succeed.

As well as taking on funding cases, Cheselden provides a wealth of information on continuing care and related subjects through our website and printed materials such as factsheets. Even if we decide that a client does not have a valid case for reclaiming care fees, Cheselden will provide free advice and support to help them minimise the cost of care.

For more information about Cheselden and continuing care, please visit www.cheselden.co.uk.