

Top-ups should be voluntary, and should only be required if the resident chooses a home that is more expensive than social services' usual amount. Social services should be able to demonstrate that there are beds available at the amount they have set. If there are no beds at that rate, they have to pay more. It is often a good idea to check that the assessment has recorded all the resident's needs, not just the help they need with personal care. Once social services have recorded a eligible or assessed need they have to fund it, even if it costs more. The government circular on Choice of Accommodation LAC (2004) 20 gives more detailed information on this.

### Charities and Benevolent Funds

There are many different charities and trusts in the UK. Some may be able to help anyone in need, and others are restricted to people in particular groups, relating to trades, professions or the forces, illnesses or disabilities and sometimes particular religions, or people living in specific localities.

### Sources of help

**Turn2us** is part of the Elizabeth Finn Charity and provides an advice service that helps people find appropriate grant giving charities as well as checking their benefit entitlement.

Tel: 0808 802 2000 (8am-8pm Monday-Friday)

Website: [www.turn2us.org.uk/](http://www.turn2us.org.uk/)

Postal address: Turn2us, Unit 9, Cefn Coed Parc, Nantgarw, Cardiff CF15 7QQ.

### Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association Forces Help (SSAFA)

is for current and former servicemen and women (anyone with one day's paid service) and their dependents. The head office can be contacted on 0845 1300 975, or visit [www.ssafa.org.uk](http://www.ssafa.org.uk), to get contact details for your local branch. They do not have funds themselves, but can sometime access funds from various service sources.

The **Directory of Social Change** should be available in your local library, and lists over 2000 charities, and gives information on how to apply.

**Charity Search** gives free advice on possible funding sources for older people. Contact 0117 982 4060 or visit [www.charitychoice.co.uk](http://www.charitychoice.co.uk)

**Charity Choice** has a website that lists over 10,000 charities and non-profit organisations, divided into categories. The first one listed is 'Aged'. Visit [www.charitychoice.co.uk](http://www.charitychoice.co.uk).

### Other charities for older people

For people who have worked in a professional role you can try

**Elizabeth Finn Care** Contact 0800 413 220 or visit

[www.elizabethfinncare.org.uk](http://www.elizabethfinncare.org.uk)

**Independent Age** Contact 020 7605 4200 or visit [www.independentage.org.uk](http://www.independentage.org.uk)  
For people who have no other source of income and particularly those of 'gentle birth' there is **The Guild of Aid for Gentlepeople**. Contact 020 7935 0641.