

# SOLLA (Society of Later Life Advisers)

Often decisions around care funding are made at a time of crisis. A family member may be leaving hospital but are no longer able to look after themselves. They may have had a sudden or a gradual transition from good to poor health. Difficult and emotive decisions will need to be made around how best to provide the care they need. This may not help you to arrive at the right decision for the long term.

**If neither the National Health Service nor the Local Authority are required to fund their care there is the difficult decision of how best to pay for it. Equally importance is ensuring that the care can be paid for as long as it is needed. Making best use of income and assets so that the funding doesn't run out is a very important part of the overall decisions that need to be made.**

It's essential to be able to access help and support from specialist financial advisers who not only know how to navigate through the complexities of the care system but also have the right 'soft skills' and appreciation of the difficulties involved when it comes to making the right choices.

*So where can you find the right kind of financial adviser at the right time?*

Would you be able to identify the skills and qualifications needed to help you make the right choices? It was to help people in finding the right financial advice around care funding and other later life decisions that The Society of Later Life Advisers (SOLLA) was founded in 2008.

All listed SOLLA Members have achieved the Later Life Accreditation Standard and are specialists in the area of advising older people, their families and carers. The Accreditation tests not only their technical expertise but also their soft skills when explaining what can be very complex issues.

Having the ability to empathise with older clients, communicate appropriately and understand the physical limitations of getting older are vital skills which members must demonstrate in order to achieve their Accreditation. SOLLA members are required to regularly evidence that they have kept their skills and knowledge up to date and must abide by a Code of Practice

SOLLA members can provide financial advice in the following areas:

- \* Care Funding
- \* Making the best use of your capital and Income In Retirement
- \* Releasing Capital from your Home
- \* Inheritance Tax Planning
- \* Pension Planning

SOLLA members are used to working alongside other professionals such as solicitors and accountants where necessary. They all have an understanding of wills, trusts and Powers of Attorney so they can help you to ensure that your financial planning fits in with other later life decisions you may need to make. Most importantly, using a SOLLA member to help you to make important financial decisions around matters such as funding care for yourself or those who you care about means that you can have confidence that you are being helped by later life specialists

If you would like more information about SOLLA you can find this at [www.societyoflaterlifeadvisers.co.uk](http://www.societyoflaterlifeadvisers.co.uk)



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