



Chrissey Teigen goes FULL FRONTAL in raunchy naked shoot with...



GRAPHIC CONTENT: Watch shock moment police shot dead



'It was a shock for me' Patrick Kielty opens up about his...



Kelly Brook shares 'shameless' NAKED snaps of herself and James...



Tunisia terror: President vows to fight terrorism 'until the...

Pensioners could be forced into homes as soaring cost means home care 'at risk'

PENSIONERS could be forced into care homes because soaring costs are making support in their own houses unaffordable, a healthcare specialist warns.



Their are worries that the Care Act will increase the cost of home car

The Care Act, which comes into force in April, will set out standards by which local authorities will have to abide.

But experts say this could quadruple the cost of home care, forcing councils to take the cheaper option of putting the vulnerable into residential homes.

Jon Chapman, director of specialist care consultants Pinders, said it would simply no longer be practical to provide high quality home care for a rapidly expanding elderly population.

Home care in many councils has been reduced to "flying visits" of as little as five minutes, which have been criticised as "hopelessly inadequate" by charities.

The Care Act is likely to say that local authorities can limit home care to high-level or "substantial" needs only.

However, this will take more time and cost more money, says Mr Chapman who has advised the Government, care regulators and local authorities on healthcare issues. This will mean that for many individuals it will be cheaper to put them into care homes, he said.

He told delegates at a Nursing Homes and Third Age Housing Conference: "Home care has only been affordable because it is inadequate."

By continuing to use the site, you agree to the use of cookies. You can find out more by following [this link \(/cookie-policy\)](#).

[Accept Cookies](#)

Despite the closure of 1,500 care homes, bed capacity has increased thanks to growth in the private sector. However, these homes – which offer spacious modern en-suite facilities and such added extras as cafes, cinemas, computer rooms and special dementia gardens – charge up to £1,000 a week.

This cost is beyond the budget of most local authorities which typically pay between £300-£500 a week. Mr Chapman said: "There is little option – councils will be forced to pay these high fees."

A Department of Health spokeswoman said: "We don't accept this. We're working with councils to help people live independently for as long as possible.

"We're already seeing fewer older people in care homes."

Don't miss the latest top UK news



Get the latest UK breaking news from Express.co.uk

Sign up for the daily email