
COMPLIMENTS & COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

At LifeCare Residences, we welcome all forms of feedback from our residents and those dealing with us, whether positive or negative. Your feedback can be submitted in person or in writing, whatever is your preference and we welcome you letting us know as soon as a complaint or compliment arises.

You may wish to let us know if:

- ❖ You would like to compliment us on a job well done.
- ❖ You have a suggestion on how we might improve our services.
- ❖ Our services or staff have fallen short of your expectations.
- ❖ You are concerned about your treatment or any aspect of your care delivery

You can contact the person you have been dealing with at the relevant village directly or get in touch with the General Manager or Head of Care.

Alternatively, you can write to us at one of the following addresses and put your concerns in writing:

info@lifecareresidences.co.uk

info@batterseaplace.co.uk

info@groveplacevillage.co.uk

info@somerleighcourt.co.uk

If you would prefer, you can contact us by Post:

LifeCare Residences

6 York Street

London

W1U 6QD

If you wish to make a complaint, our full complaints procedure is set out on the next page.

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We accept your right to complain and to register comments and concerns about our services and want to make it easy for you to do so. We welcome complaints, seeing them as opportunities to learn, adapt, improve and provide better services. We will not treat you any differently if you make a complaint.

You may seek redress in relation to a complaint under the following procedure.

You have the right to be accompanied at any meeting about your complaint by a support person/advocate.

We aim to ensure that complaints are dealt with properly and in a timely way and that all complaints or comments by residents and their relatives, carers and advocates are taken seriously.

We support the principle that most complaints if dealt with early, openly and honestly can be resolved at a local level between the complainant and ourselves and often through a discussion process.

We will apologise if we did not get things right, in respect of our service or communication with you and we will work with you to create a better experience with us wherever possible.

Complaints and Concerns

We encourage you to register any concerns or complaints you may have relating to our services, staff, or the provision of care. You can discuss the matter informally with the General Manager, Head of Care or any other member of the senior management team who will try in the first instance to put things right.

If you prefer to put your complaint in writing or in an email, we will work with you to understand how you would like the issues resolved and communicated back to you.

You may nominate an intermediary to handle your complaint on your behalf at any time during the procedure. We will co-operate in the same way with any such intermediary.

We understand that it can be stressful to raise your complaints for fears of recrimination and we will do our best to keep you informed about the process and what we are doing to find a remedy to your concern.

Some complaints are able to be resolved immediately and some may take a little longer to be resolved but we will do our best to understand the outcomes you are

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looking for and resolve the concerns you or your family have.

We will try and provide answers to your complaint as soon as possible, but in some cases an investigation may be required and we will investigate and respond to you within a time frame of 28 days where possible.

If this time frame is not possible to meet, we will explain why and keep you informed about the process and timescales.

We will offer a local resolution meeting, to feedback to you what we have found and to work with you to offer both assurance and plan a way forward.

Our intention is to respond to complaints and concerns in a transparent way that provides you with reassurance that your experience is important to us and we will work in partnership with you to put things right.

If you feel your complaint has not been satisfactorily resolved after raising your concerns, please feel free to contact the Head of Legal to request a further review. The Head of Legal is contactable on any of the aforementioned email addresses, the physical address on page 1 or on 020 7935 0075.

Getting Help If Your Complaint Is About the Provision of Care

Our care services are regulated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). However, complaints about care services are dealt with independently. So, if your complaint is concerned with the provision of domiciliary or nursing care, and you do not feel satisfied with our responses then you can refer the matter to the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO).

The LGO has historically dealt with complaints about care arranged and funded by local authorities but it now also deals with complaints by those who “self-fund” from their own resources or have a personalised budget.

This ensures that everyone has access to the same independent ombudsman service, regardless of how the care service is funded. In most cases, they will only consider a complaint once the care provider has been given reasonable opportunity to deal with the situation. It is a free service. Their job is to investigate complaints in a fair, unbiased and independent way. They are independent of politicians, local authorities, government department, advocacy and campaigning groups, the care industry, and the CQC. They are not a regulator and do not inspect care providers.

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The link below is to the LGO's web-page on "Adult social care" and has a short film that provides an overview of their adult social care service. It explains their role and how the service will benefit both residents and care providers. A free copy of the film and manuscript is available to download from the same location.

<http://www.lgo.org.uk/adult-social-care/>

The LGO is fully independent of the CQC. They deal with individual injustices that people have suffered and the CQC will refer all such complaints to them. The CQC deals with complaints about registered services as a whole and does not consider individual matters. The LGO can share information with the CQC but only when deemed appropriate. The CQC will redirect individual complaints to the LGO, and the LGO will inform CQC about outcomes that point to regulatory failures.

For information, CQC contact details are:

03000 616161
CQC National Service Centre
Citygate
Gallowgate
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4PA

Getting Help If Your Complaint Is About Residential Leasehold Management or Our Resale Agency Activities

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your complaint or we fail to provide the final decision in writing within 56 days (or any later mutually agreed deadline) then you can make a complaint to the Property Ombudsman Service, of which LifeCare Residences are members (membership number D102292) both in respect of residential leasehold management and in relation to our resale agency activities.

There are a number of ways to complain to the Property Ombudsman. The best way is by completing one of their complaint forms online (using the link below) or downloading the form and completing it. Alternatively, you can obtain a hard copy from the General Manager and send it to Property Ombudsman direct.

<https://www.tpos.co.uk/consumers/how-to-make-a-complaint>

The complaint form gives the Property Ombudsman permission to contact us.

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If you have a query or want to check something before making a complaint to the Property Ombudsman, you can phone them. You can also complain by letter or phone, but the Property Ombudsman must have your signed permission to contact us before they can consider the complaint further.

The Property Ombudsman considers how to respond based on the circumstances of each individual complaint. They will usually contact both parties to explore how the complaint can be resolved locally.

We confirm that we will co-operate fully with the Property Ombudsman Service during any investigation and comply with the resulting decision, which will be binding on us.