

The Care Standards Act (CSA) and the Commission for Social Care Inspection (*ref 13*)

- 1.** The *Care Standards Act* for the first time placed the responsibility for regulation of Residential Care, Nursing Homes, Adult Placement and Domiciliary Support under a single national agency, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI - website: www.csci.gov.uk). The CSCI has the role of supporting consumers and advising ministers.
- 2.** The CSA specifies national minimum standards for Residential Care Homes, Adult Placement and Domiciliary Care Agencies.
- 3.** The Standards and Regulations no longer distinguish between large homes and small homes. Adult Placements are designated as being for a maximum of two people sharing a family household.
- 4.** Different standards apply for homes for people aged less than 65. The National Minimum Standards: Care Homes for Adults 18-65 were considerably watered down after prolonged consultation. These are available on www.csci.gov.uk.
- 5.** The standards are grouped under key topics which highlight important outcomes for service users: Choice of home; individual needs; lifestyle and personal development; personal and healthcare support; concerns, complaints and protection; environment; staffing; conduct and management of the home.
- 6.** National minimum standards include:
 - new homes to have maximum 10 residents in one unit by 2007
 - everyone to have option of their own room
 - minimum room size for bedrooms
 - adequate ratio of bathrooms + WC's (need to be in close vicinity)
 - provision for disabled residents
- 7.** More rigorous standards for new build and additions to existing homes include but these are very much more relaxed than the original requirements.
- 8.** Inspection Reports will remain publicly available documents (once agreed with home proprietors) and are accessible through CSCI's website: www.csci.gov.uk
- 9.** The Secretary of State will have powers to issue national minimum standards and to audit enquiries.
- 10.** The Commission for Social Care Inspection will be merged with the Healthcare Commission and the Mental Health Act Commission some time in 2009. The new body will be known as the Care Quality Commission.

If you require further information or have other queries contact Housing Options.

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