

Factsheet - The Royal Hospital Chelsea

The Royal Hospital Chelsea was founded by Charles II in 1682 as a refuge for old soldiers and it continues in that role to the present day.

Although there continues to be a military flavour with a small amount of ceremonial, the Royal Hospital is essentially a care home in central London with over 300 resident Chelsea Pensioners, where the principles of comradeship and freedom from care are paramount. Vacancies occur throughout the year.

Pensioners are free to lead independent lives, can come and go at will and visits from families and friends are encouraged.

Facilities offered include:

- Single room accommodation with communal bathing facilities
- Three meals per day in a communal dining hall with multiple choice menus available
- Full time in-house medical and nursing care
- The In-Pensioners Club with two comfortable lounges and two bars and where a range of newspapers and magazines is always available
- A Social Centre, the Prince of Wales Hall, where pensioners can take their guests for light refreshments
- A well-equipped handicraft centre enables Pensioners to pursue hobbies such as carpentry, painting, carving, model making and computing
- A well stocked library, which includes large print volumes, videos and cassette tapes

Qualifications for entry to the Royal Hospital are:

- Aged 65 or over and of good character
- In receipt of an Army Pension or Army Disability Pension. This is surrendered on entry, but both occupational and state pensions are unaffected
- Free from the obligation to support a family

All applications are considered on an individual basis, including the opportunity to visit the Royal Hospital on a four day trial visit at no cost and at no obligation.

For further information:

Contact the Royal Hospital Chelsea on **020 7881 5204** or visit their website at www.chelsea-pensioners.org.uk