PETER – SUBMISSION 5

Peter contacted the CCPC to let us know about his mother's experience of a short stay in a Dublin nursing home until her death in 2016.

When the issue of extra payments for various activities came up with the nursing home, Peter queried it as his mother was basically bedridden, or could only make it to a chair beside her bed on a good day.

Peter's Mum was asked to pay for social programmes, including Arts and Crafts, Games Such as Bingo/Name that Tune etc., Board Games, Book Club, Bowling, Card Games, Cookery, Daily Exercise Classes, Daily Prayer Group, Extend Class, Film Nights, Garden Parties, Nail filing and painting, Massage Therapy, Pet Therapy, Occasional Lectures, Sonas, Special Occasions Celebrations, Visiting Musicians, Visiting Theatre Groups, Visiting Library Art Therapy Classes. Summer barbeques and garden parties. Evening social events such as for example, Fish and Chips Supper night. Occasional trips and outings, to the seafront, and evening trips to the local pub, visits to local theatres, shops and the annual summer outing to Dublin Zoo.

Peter managed to negotiate down the charge for extra activities from €70 per week to €50. Peter believes his mother never participated in any of the activities. Any of the services she did avail of were extra and she paid for them on top of everything else, such as hairdressing and chiropody.

Peter provided a breakdown of the costs his Mum paid every month:

- €1,160.00 per week less €988.91 (N.H.S.S) = €171.09
- +€50.00 (social programme not covered by N.H.S.S. "Fair Deal")

Which gives a total of €221.09 per week. This figure is then multiplied by 52 (weeks in the year); €11,496.68 and then divided by 12 (months in the year); €958.05, to reach our monthly total.

Peter states '*It seems outrageous that the nursing homes are taking these extra fees from people who cannot avail of them. Essentially every penny of her pension was going to them and if she didn't have a family to ensure what extra she needed was taken care of then how would she have managed?*'