



Using Self-Employed Care Workers (Micro-providers)

Important information before you choose this option

Care Connections provides information only about local support options, including self-employed care workers (sometimes called micro-providers). This sheet explains what the Network does, what it does not do, and what you need to consider before making a private arrangement.

Network role and limits

The Network does	The Network does not
• Share information about local services and options • Help you understand what may be available locally • Require connected providers to complete the local Network registration process and sign up to the “Doing it Right” Quality Standard •	• Select, match, shortlist, allocate or place providers with you • Recommend, endorse, broker or guarantee providers • Assess suitability for your individual needs Investigate or resolve complaints • Inspect, regulate or supervise providers

Quick check: is unregulated care the right option for you? if YES... you need to

1. Be clear	2. Manage it	3. Check the person	4. Take responsibility
What support is needed, when, and how it should be provided.	Give direction, agree changes, and plan for sickness, absence or gaps.	Ask questions and check references, experience and insurance.	This is a private arrangement, not a managed care service.

If you cannot do this

A regulated care provider or managed service may be a better option.

Important responsibility and safeguarding notice

The Network provides information only. With your consent, it may circulate a request to a broad local provider group as a neutral information-sharing step. Providers respond directly to you or your lawful representative. The Network does not act as a care broker, employment agency, employment business or matching service. It does not select, match, shortlist, allocate, place, recommend, endorse, supervise, inspect, regulate or guarantee any provider, or assess whether a provider is suitable for your individual needs. Any agreement is made directly between you and the provider. You are responsible for deciding whether to proceed, making any checks you consider necessary, and agreeing the terms of support. Serious concerns or safeguarding issues should be reported to Somerset Council. Concerns about a provider's conduct may be reviewed and could lead to removal from the Network.

Consent and acknowledgement

Please tick each box to confirm you understand and agree before any request is circulated.

- ☐ **Consent to share:** I consent to the Network circulating a brief request to a broad local provider group as a neutral information-sharing step, and I understand providers may respond directly to me or my lawful representative.
- ☐ **Network role:** I understand the Network provides information only and is not a care broker, employment agency, employment business or matching service. It does not choose, match, shortlist, recommend, allocate, place, supervise, inspect, regulate, guarantee or manage any provider.
- ☐ **My responsibility:** I understand any arrangement is made directly between me and the provider. I am responsible for deciding whether to proceed, making any checks I consider necessary, agreeing the terms of support, and reporting serious concerns or safeguarding issues to Somerset Council.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____