

Somerset Micro Providers

Not many people may know of the army of registered professional self employed people that can offer care and support within your home. Since 2015 self employed care workers have signed up to the community catalysts programme, founded by Somerset County Council. The programme which supports people in their own homes, enabling hundreds of people to remain in their familiar surroundings. The scheme has proved successful as now the membership has grown to over 360 micro providers, working across Somerset today.

What makes this level of help different is micro providers can offer a friendly one to one level of affordable care, tailored to customer's needs. The micro provider can plan their work rota so that they can meet the times that customers want them to arrive., having a familiar friendly face, has also benefited customers and has taken the stress out of getting the professional care that they need. Micro providers are local to their area and can support each other when cover is needed for sickness or holiday leave.

In order for micro provider to join the accredited scheme they have to be DBS Checked, have appropriate training, relevant insurance, and policies and procedures for their services.

What do we do ? anything and everything to enable someone to stay at home. We can be cleaners, carers, dog walkers, and gardeners.

There is a full list of micro providers on the Somerset County Council web site and also your local Village Agent knows who works in your area.

For any more information on Micro Providers across West Somerset please contact - Vicki James on 07475803652

16 Coastguard Cottages

Lilstock

Somerset

TA5 1SU

1st December 2020

Hello

I am the new lead for the West Somerset Micro-providers who are working across the area. As you can see from my enclosed information sheet we work directly with those who are needing care to enable people to stay at home, or offer support on a wide range of issues. We are all independent but accredited by the council who support our work and ensure that we follow the same set of rules and standards. This year of course has been very different for all of us and again concerning for us all, especially those that are considered vulnerable and or living alone. Throughout this pandemic Micro- Providers have kept working and have done so safely, and at this time enabled medical staff to prioritise their provision to the community because Micro-Providers have been able to carry out the care needed for many in the community.

Something that concerns us all is the “loneliness” that many people have suffered and the mental health of so many that has been compromised. We see this throughout our work and of course it is not just in West Somerset. However, geographically West Somerset is of course often remote and also has an ageing population that are often restricted by not using modern technology to “keep talking”. As Micro-Providers we collectively want to enable the local community to collectively work together throughout the remaining time of the pandemic but also for the future. Having researched and listened to the community we feel that “Communication Benches” where people are able to sit and talk outside will help break down the isolation.

If I can help with any more information please contact me

Thank you for your time

Vicki James -07475803652

