



## **Background Information for Micro-Provider Co-ordinator and Accreditation Lead**

Somerset Council is working with 10 Organisations across the County to establish Accreditation schemes for Micro-Providers i.e. paid care workers. Somerset Council are withdrawing support for Micro-Providers. It will all be delegated to accredited localities.

WINCANTON CARES is delighted to have been chosen as one of these trusted organisations.

### **What Accreditation means to WINCANTON CARES**

Accreditation is all about ensuring safe, reliable care. We want to protect and safeguard both clients and Micro-Providers.

Although in the past Micro-Providers were asked if they had the necessary documents in place such as a current DBS and Liability insurance; Somerset Council did not actually verify the documentation. Now a key role of the Micro-Provider Lead will be to physically check the following as part of the Accreditation process:

- Application form
- DBS verification
- Insurance verification
- Self-employment status
- Right to work check
- Policy compliance
- On successful Accreditation issue WINCANTON CARES ID Badges

Micro-Providers will also be expected to understand, and sign up to, the WINCANTON CARES Code of Conduct and safeguarding expectations. Both the Code of Conduct and the Safeguarding policy have been written and agreed by the Steering Group.

### **What does Micro-Provider Co-ordination mean to WINCANTON CARES?**

The Micro-Provider Co-ordination role is about being the first point of contact for WINCANTON CARES Accredited Micro-Providers and those who want to join us.

A new local directory of Accredited Micro-Providers will need to be established to make information easily available and this will need to be kept up-to-date. Any work requests will also need to be handled fairly.

In addition, we recognise that working as a sole trader; being a Micro-Provider can be a lonely job and we want Micro-Providers to feel supported. As a result, a part of this role is concerned with establishing and maintaining opportunities for Micro-Providers to meet up in person and virtually.

Within the next couple of months, the only way that Micro-Providers will be able to receive work requests from official bodies such as adult social care, Thrive or the NHS will be via the network of Somerset Council approved organisations. The 10 groups have come under the banner of SCA -

the Somerset Care Alliance. We at WINCANTON CARES are a member of the Alliance. WINCANTON CARES is a charity in Wincanton that supports the over 55s in the BA9 postcode area – Wincanton and the 15 associated parishes.

Along with Somerset Council, WINCANTON CARES are concerned that there will be Micro-Providers in our area who will not be Accredited and who, as a result, will miss out on employment opportunities. None of us can allow this to happen. So many vulnerable people rely on the care and support that Micro-Providers provide. As a result, the Co-ordinator will need to continue to share these changes in Micro-Provider services as widely as possible.

Accreditation is not restricted to those who work with older people. All Micro-Providers need to become Accredited.

### **The Accreditation process is really simple:**

- ✓ Meet with the lead for Micro-Provider Accreditation
- ✓ Provide a copy of a current DBS – or show evidence of the DBS Update Service  
If you need an up-to-date DBS, we can help you get one.
- ✓ Provide copies of relevant Insurances
- ✓ Talk about your work and the tasks you carry out. This can then be used to write a short outline to go on the Accredited Micro-Provider list so that people who are looking for care know if you are suitable for their needs.
- ✓ Read, agree and sign up to the Accredited Micro-Provider Code of Conduct
- ✓ Provide a photo for your identity badge
- ✓ You will be provided with a WINCANTON CARES Accredited status identity card and lanyard. This will be endorsed by Somerset Council
- ✓ Once Accredited, your details will go onto the WINCANTON CARES Accredited Micro-Provider hard copy list that can be made available from any trusted community spaces.
- ✓ You will have access to a closed WhatsApp group aimed at linking you up with other Micro-Providers for support.
- ✓ You will also have access to a closed WhatsApp group where work opportunities are shared. If you have capacity then you will be able to make contact with the person asking for help. This may be a statutory agency, another charity or an individual.

Agencies and individuals will make their requests via an online portal.

**In the future – This is the only way that statutory agencies will be able to request help.**

We will charge an annual fee of around £25 for Accreditation. This will help to cover our costs and to make the scheme sustainable.