



Carers Direct Ltd

Providing Outstanding Personal Care and Support

Our Philosophy of Care and Participation Strategy for Service Users & Carers

Introduction

We at Carers Direct Ltd pride ourselves on offering a highly professional Domiciliary Care Service.

We provide outstanding personal care and support to service users who require such support in their own homes in order to remain independent.

Our Philosophy of Care

Our philosophy is to provide high quality services to service users that is flexible and responsive to individual needs, always ensuring the following:

Dignity

The understanding of service users' needs and treating them with respect, helping them enjoy a full range of social relationships.

Privacy

Helping service users have their privacy and homes respected and be free from unnecessary intrusion.

Choice

Helping service users make informed choices, and recognise the rights of other people to do the same, and know about the range of choices available.

Safety

Ensuring the service user has the right to feel safe and secure in all aspects of life including health and wellbeing; helping the service user enjoy safety but not be over-protected, and be free from exploitation and abuse.

Realising Potential

Helping the service users with their right to achieve all they can; encouraging them to make full use of the resources that are available to them and to help them make the most of their lives.

Quality and Diversity

Helping service users live an independent life that is rich in purpose, meaning and personal fulfilment, be valued for their ethnic background, language, culture and faith, helping them be treated equally and live in an environment which is free from bullying, harassment and discrimination, and to be able to complain effectively without fear of victimisation.

Independence

Allowing service user to take calculated risks, to make their own decisions and think and act for themselves.

Rights

Keeping all basic human rights available to the service users.

Carers Direct Ltd will strive to preserve and maintain the dignity, individuality and privacy of all service users, and in so doing will be sensitive to the service users' ever changing needs.

Such needs may be medical or therapeutic (for physical and mental welfare), cultural, psychological, spiritual, emotional and social, and service users are encouraged to participate in the development of their individualised Care Plans in which the involvement of family and friends may be appropriate, and which is greatly valued.

About Our Participation Strategy

This Participation Strategy is for you – the people who use Carers Direct Ltd, your Carers and our staff who support you.

Carers Direct Ltd has a long tradition of partnership working with service users and carers.

This Strategy aims to build on our previous work and to help us to develop a more consistent approach to service user and carer participation.

Who are ‘Service Users’?

The term ‘Service User’ includes:

- People who use our services;
- People who may use our services in the future;
- User groups and organisations that support and represent the interests of people using our services.

Who are ‘Carers’?

Carers look after family members, partners or friends who are in need of help because they are ill, frail or have a disability.

Why do we want to involve Service Users and Carers?

There are many good reasons to involve service users and carers. These include:

- To give a real say in the service we offer and the way we provide them;
- To make sure we tailor our services to meet your individual needs;
- To make sure we provide outstanding services - that are friendly, fair, and useful;
- To make sure our services support your dignity and independence.

What is ‘User Participation’?

User participation is about talking and listening to Service User and Carers and involving you as partners in the decisions that affect your lives.

Examples include:

- Involving Service Users in decisions about your own health and social care needs and how these are to be met.
- Supporting Service Users and Carers to take part in the selection of staff.
- Asking service users for your views on the usefulness and friendliness of our information.
- Inviting Service Users to take part in regular service reviews, and creating user forums where you can have your say about the service we offer.

We believe that service users have a right to have your say, to enjoy choice and control, and to share in decision making about your service.

We have legal duties and responsibilities with which we must comply. As a result, we may sometimes need to make decisions that may go against the views of service users. If this happens, we will clearly explain our actions as well as your right to appeal or make a complaint.

Having set out some of these limits to user participation, we are committed to providing outstanding personal care and support, and making sure that service users are at the centre of all that we do - and the way we do it.

What are our Participation Principles?

In involving Service Users we will:

- Treat you with respect and dignity.
- Work and make decisions with you.
- Be fair and just with you.
- Make sure that you are encouraged and supported to speak your mind and have your say about our service.
- Make sure that we are always user-friendly and that all our participation activities are accessible to you.
- Be clear with you on what you are being asked to be involved with, how your views will be used, and when you will be informed of the results.

How much participation?

Under the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013, service users have the right to the following four options:

Option 1

The Local Authority pays the service user an amount for the provision of support.

Option 2

The service user selects the support needed, the Local Authority provides the support on the service user's behalf and, where it is provided by someone else (such as Carers Direct Ltd), pays an amount to the service provider.

Option 3

The Local Authority selects the support needed by the service user, provides the support, or where it is provided by someone else (such as Carers Direct Ltd) pays an amount to the service provider.

Option 4

The service user can choose Option 1, 2 or 3, where support is provided by another service provider (such as Carers Direct Ltd), the local authority pays an amount for the cost of the support to the service provider.

To Clarify:

- For some Service Users, receiving information about services is enough, leaving it to the Local Authority to choose the level of service and the provider.
- Other Service Users will look to be more actively involved, wanting to give their views and expecting to take part in decision-making.
- Others again may want to take full control of their services. Such user control is offered with Self-directed Support where service users can take responsibility for managing their own care packages.

We believe that Service Users must be given the equal opportunity to participate to a level and a degree that suits them.

Where are we now?

There are a number of areas where we already include user participation in the way we work. Examples include:

- Our Information Pack, which sets out what quality standards people can expect when they receive our service.
- Our care management policies and procedures, which set out user's rights in the assessment and care planning process.
- The Care Inspectorate questionnaires, where Service Users and Carers can feed back their experience of being supported in their own home.
- The annual Carers Direct questionnaire, where people are encouraged to give their views on how well they think we are doing. (We will collate the responses and send all our service users the feedback from the questionnaires: this is a very important exercise for us in our constant drive to continually improve and develop our services.)
- Telephone or email enquires regarding the quality of care received.
- Service User and Carer involvement in the recruitment and selection of staff if appropriate.
- Care Manager's quality assurance visits.
- Invitation to meet with the Care Manager at any time to discuss development and improvement of the service.
- Ongoing staff training supervision and appraisal.
- Spot Checks.
- Complaints procedure.
- Team Meetings, encouraging suggestions for improvement.
- Service User reviews.
- Feedback from other health and social care professionals.

What are the Aims of our User Participation Strategy?

Our User Participation Strategy has the following 3 main aims:

1. To develop service user participation.
2. To develop standards and targets so that our progress can be measured and reviewed.
3. To give feedback on progress with the development of our standards and targets.

What are we doing to meet these 3 Aims?

1. In terms of developing User Participation we are:
 - Involving service users in checking how well we currently practice user participation,
 - Developing plans to fill unmet needs and gaps,
 - Creating opportunities for Service Users to be involved in checking our public information to make sure it is easy to read and useful.
 - Helping service users to have their say through advocacy support.
 - Publicising this User Participation Strategy to make sure that all staff are aware of what it says and understand their part in making it happen.
2. In terms of developing Standards and targets we have:
 - Moved to a systematic approach to user participation so that we always expand and extend the things we do well, and improve on those areas that need to be developed.

3. In terms of giving Feedback on progress with the development of our standards and targets we are:
- Making sure that the results of participation and consultation are used to improve the services we provide and how we provide them.
 - Create opportunities and support for service users to comment on the quality and usefulness of the services provided to them.

Who makes this happen?

All those involved have a role in making the Strategy happen:

- The Service Users & Carers

Service Users & Carers are at the heart of the Strategy and have a critical role in helping us to continue to develop user-friendly, accessible and fair services.

- Our Staff

Our staff are a key part of making the Strategy happen. Staff make sure that Service Users are informed of their rights and the standards we work to. Staff also support service users to take part in their services and contribute to the planning and development of services. In addition, staff are now encouraged to participate directly in the planning processes of Carers Direct Ltd.

- Our Care Manager and Director

Our Care Manager and Director continue to assure that the way we offer our service, as set out in our Philosophy of Care, includes essential arrangements for user participation, and that staff implement this Participation Strategy and receive appropriate support and training.

- Our Quality Assurance and Development Team

Our Care Manager and Director take the lead in making sure that all those involved are supported to make this Participation Strategy happen and to check and report on progress made.

Setting and reviewing targets

This Strategy will be checked regularly to make sure that it keeps up with the needs of service users, and also that it is fully up to date with our policies and procedures.

Progress made in delivering this Strategy will be reported in our annual self-assessment.

Thank you for taking the time to read our User Participation Strategy document.

If you have any questions or suggestions we would be delighted to hear from you: please phone our Care Manager on 01436 671389 or on 01631 569 550.

Our Ethos – in support of our Vision

“Providing Outstanding Personal Care and Support”

1. Commitment

We each give everything we do 100% effort until we succeed. We are committed to the Vision, Mission, Culture and success of Carers Direct Limited, its staff, and its service users. We always recommend the services of Carers Direct Limited before recommending those from other providers.

2. Ownership

We individually and collectively take full responsibility for our actions and take ownership of everything that we do in work and life. We are accountable for our results and we know that for things to change, we must change first.

3. Integrity

We always speak the truth. We do what we promise we will do. We only ever make commitments that we intend to keep. If we become aware that we're unable to keep a commitment we let people know immediately.

4. Excellence

Good enough isn't, within reason! We always deliver services of great quality within agreed time frames, adding value wherever we can for people's long term benefit. We look for ways to do more with less. We each seek to improve ourselves as well as suggest ideas for improvement in the business.

5. Communication

We each speak positively of fellow team members, our service users and Carers Direct Limited in public and private. We speak in a positive way whenever we can. We never use - and avoid listening to - sarcasm or gossip. We accept that when people are speaking they believe it is the truth at that time. We take responsibility for how people react to our communication. We use people's names when saying hello or goodbye. We always apologise for any upsets first and then look for a solution. We only ever discuss concerns in private with the person causing the concerns.

6. Success

We totally focus our thoughts and energy on the successful outcome of whatever we are doing. We are confident in our abilities and display our confidence. We are successful people.

7. Education

We learn from our mistakes. We each consistently learn and grow so that we can help our colleagues and service users to benefit from our efforts. We give our service users the very best advice possible and allow them to make their own intelligent decisions about how they use this advice. We give practical and useable knowledge rather than just theory.

8. Team Work

We are each team players and team leaders in our own right. We do what it takes to keep the team together and achieve our team goals. We each focus on being co-operative and come to a resolution rather than a compromise wherever possible. We are flexible in how we do our

work and able to adapt if what we're doing is not working. We ask for help when we need it and are helpful and supportive to others who ask for help.

9. Balance

We each have a balanced approach to life, remembering that our spiritual, social, physical and family needs are just as important as our financial and learning needs. We prioritise work and most important tasks first, so we each can have quality time to ourselves and families.

10. Fun

We each view life as a journey to be enjoyed and appreciated by ourselves and by others. We create a good atmosphere so that people in contact with us enjoy it as well.

11. Systems

If a problem arises we first check our systems, processes and standards and use a system correction before we try to correct the behaviour or actions of others. We follow our systems, processes and standards. We also suggest improvements to our systems, processes and standards whenever we can.

12. Consistency

We are each consistent in our actions so colleagues and service users are comfortable in dealing with us. We are disciplined in our work so that our results, growth and success are consistent.

13. Gratitude

We each are grateful people. We say thank-you and show appreciation wherever we can, so that people around us know how much we appreciate them. We each celebrate our own successes and those of colleagues and service users. We prefer to catch ourselves and other people doing things well rather than making mistakes.

14. Generosity

We each are generous people. We deserve the good things that happen to us. We each respect our own self-worth and that of others. We recognise that we reap is what we sow in terms of behaviour and actions.

15. Judgement

We each seek all the facts wherever we can before we make a judgment on any circumstances that may arise with a client or a colleague. We respect the right of others to hold a differing opinion to ours. We will raise awareness of an alternative view to promote learning and understanding.