

Small Supports Provider Network

*Enabling creative organisations
that are committed to diverse communities &
citizenship for all*

The Constitution

The Small Supports Provider Network is an informal network of Small Supports Provider organisations.

We share a commitment to the development of Small Supports provision in order that we make a real difference to the lives of people we support and their families.

All the Providers who are members of this network are committed to the nine principles of a small support organisation.

The Nine Principles of Small Supports

What are Small Supports? – Nine Key Characteristics of a Small Supports Provider

Small Supports organisations provide support through a service designed around an individual. This bespoke support enables people to have their health needs met as well as their wants and wishes fulfilled.

- 1. From the first steps, the person (and their chosen family and friends) enjoys as much control as possible, and there is a commitment to this control growing.**
- 2. The starting point for developing great support is the person's aspirations about where they want to live, and the life they want to have, a conversation about support then follows from this.**
- 3. Supporters (staff) are recruited by and around the individual. They don't work across services. Staff are not a substitute for friends, community peers, co-workers and neighbours.**
- 4. The person chooses where they live and who, if anyone, they live with. The person is the tenant or owner of their own home, or perhaps they live with family. There is a clear separation of housing and support.**
- 5. Funding is sustainable and is designed and used around the individual.**
- 6. Small supports organisations stay with people. Change and challenges are expected, so they don't withdraw support or 'sell' services on.**
- 7. Small support organisations are rooted in their local community - in their work, leadership, recruitment and actions.**
- 8. The organisations stay relatively small. Knowing each person well means not growing by more than three to five people a year, and finding a natural size where people are known and valued, and the organisation is financially sustainable.**
- 9. Small support organisations are developed around these practices. Taking some of these practices and making them aspirations within large, segregated services and will not deliver the desired outcomes.**

Small Supports Provider Network

Our Mission

The Small Supports Provider Network will enable and encourage creative organizations that are committed to diverse communities & citizenship for all.

Our Statement of Values

We believe that all members of our society are equal. This means that each of us is entitled to dignity and respect. This also means that everyone has something to contribute to the community and that everyone is entitled to help from the community.

When we give people help it is vital that the help we give does not harm the person receiving that help. In particular, the person should be enabled to develop as a person, to make choices, to be present in the community and to strengthen their relationships with family and friends. The person receiving help should be able to remain a full citizen and should not lose any of the rights we have as citizens simply because of their need for some help.

The challenge for all our members is not just to espouse these values but to live by them. In particular, we must remember that human services are not an unmitigated good, and that they can always endanger the relationship between the individual and the community. So, we will work to ensure that those we serve are supported in ways which promote:

Personal autonomy: *We each need our lives to go in the direction that is right for us and which stems from our own individual character. We need to support people to make choices and take control over the course of their own lives.*

Individual gifts: *Each of us has our own individual strengths and gifts and those gifts enable us to make our own unique contribution to the lives of others. We need to acknowledge the gifts of those we serve and work to ensure that those gifts can be expressed and developed.*

Community membership: *We can only flourish if we are able to have access to the wide and varied opportunities that the community makes available to us. We need to work in ways that enhance the community's competence at including and supporting people.*

Community participation: *We all need to be connected to others in the positive relationships that exist through love, family, friendship and community. We need to ensure that the people we help are enabled to improve their sense of connection to others in ways that are right for them.*

Dignity and respect: *We all have a right to the dignity that arises through being properly respected. We need to ensure that our help for others enhances their status in the eyes of others and that that help is respectful of the individual's rights and essential dignity as a human being.*

Aims of the Small Supports Provider Network

- Shared Learning
 - Seeking to maximise efficiency
- To Raise the National Profile of Small Supports
- Enable Mutual Support and Cooperation between Small Supports Providers
 - Promote Quality in our work
- Enable Growth for Small Supports Providers, as individual organisations and as a wider concept in care

Small Supports Provider Network

Primary functions

- To support the development of excellent organisations, both new and existing, to promote community inclusion
- To increase the accountability of services to the people they are there to serve
- To advance the power and interests of disabled people and others who are at risk of segregation and promote the closure of all institutional provision
 - To promote the community's understanding of the dangers of institutionalisation and explain the value of inclusion and community development

The Scope and Nature of the Small Supports Provider Network

This is a network of service providers, of agencies who offer support to people so that they can lead their own lives.

The Small Supports Provider Network will operate in the United Kingdom

- It does not take power or resources away from the people doing the job
 - It brings together a diverse group of people with a common set of objectives
- It generates trust and through trust it makes all forms of collaboration and joint action possible
- As a development agency it is important that it does not create burdens that unfairly burden those least able to contribute
- As a membership organisation it is important that all its members play a role.

Criteria for membership

- All member organisations and will sign up to the initial statement of values.

- All member organisations should be able to say how they are living up to the statement of values and should be accountable to that statement.
- It would be expected that the nature of member organisations who are committed to our values will be reflected in their objective character to some extent, i.e. not too big and bureaucratic, not interested in making money out of people, committed to localities and neighbourhoods etc.

We recognise that there will need to be a degree of trust exercised as organisations measure themselves against these criteria.

Small Supports Provider Network Membership Categories

We have three stages of membership: Established Provider

Emerging Providers

Partner Organisations

Established Providers

Actively Providing Small Supports, CQC or OFSTED Registered

(List of Providers here)

Emerging Providers

Working towards delivering Small Supports

Not yet Registered with CQC or OFSTED but working towards this

(List of Providers here)

Partner Organisations or Individuals

National Development Team for Inclusion

(List of Partners here)

Structure of the Small Supports Provider Network

Steering Group

The Small Supports Provider Network will be led by a Steering Group which has named representatives of five Existing Small Supports Provider Organisations

These are currently;

Vicky Kirkbright, USS (Leeds)

Dave Barras PS for You, (Teesside)

Tom Plant, Eliveate (Devon)

Zoe Anderson, Aspire Support (Devon)
Martin Nicholas, Partners in Support (Hertfordshire)

This steering group will meet up to four times a year usually online.

Quarterly Network Meetings

There will be quarterly network meetings held online for all members, which can give space for discussion and enable the sharing of best practices. Guest speakers may be invited to speak on matters of interest to the Network

WhatsApp group

All members are able to participate in a WhatsApp group which is open for relevant discussions and seeking mutual support from specific organisations or from the wider community.

Further Opportunities

As the network develops, there may be opportunities for more formal collaboration, for example shared training initiatives or procurement. These will need to be determined by members and may require adjustment to the legal structure of the network.

Fees

As the Small Supports Provider Network is at an embryonic and informal stage there are currently no fees for membership. The participatory nature of our community implies that the contributions made by individual members to the Network are entirely voluntary and freely given.

Admin Support

The Small Supports Provider Network is administered collaboratively through NDTI and Positive Support for You CIC

Contact Information

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Dave Barras – 5th December 2025