

Silva care Ltd

Advocacy and Autonomy

**Policy Statement**

Silva Care believes that every service user has the right to freedom and choice over how they wish to live their lives and, furthermore, believes that they should be enabled to live with as much independence as is possible.

**Silva Care’s Understanding of** **Autonomy**

The care service understands autonomy to be the freedom to choose and the right to live an independent life. It understands autonomy to cover basic choices such as the following.

1. Choice of how a service user wishes to be addressed.
2. Choice of what to eat and drink.
3. Choice of use of time (ie of recreational activities).
4. Choice in relation to the arrangement of their own environment.
5. Choice of who to associate with.
6. Freedom to manage their own finances.
7. Freedom to control access to their accommodation.
8. Freedom to self-administer their own medication.

The care service also recognises its legal and moral duty to protect and care for service users, some of whom are vulnerable and may not always be capable of making choices that are in their, or any other service users', best interests. It will, however, ensure that such service users are enabled to exercise as much choice as possible, eg having access to people and services that help them to express and exercise whatever choices they can make in line with the Care Act 2015, which states that:

**From April 1 2015, the Care Act extended the right for eligible people to have independent advocacy to help them be actively involved in their care and support process, including their:**

* **Care assessments**
* **Care and support planning**
* **Care and support reviews**
* **Safeguarding enquiries**
* **Safeguarding adult reviews (previously known as serious case reviews).**

**The Care Service’s Approach to** **Autonomy**

The care service’s approach to autonomy and where appropriate, Advocacy is to ensure that service users will have be involved in all decisions relating to their care, will be supported to remain as independent as possible and will be signposted to independent advocacy services where appropriate.. Silva care will :

1. Enable and help service users to handle their own financial affairs for as long as they wish to and as long as they are able to and have the capacity to do so.
2. Inform service users and their relatives and friends of how to contact external agents such as advocates and voluntary representatives who will act in their interests should they wish.
3. Give service users full access to their own personal records in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.
4. Ensure service users and their families are consulted about all aspects of their care and involved in decision making relating to the care provided by the company.

**Silva care staff should remember the following.**

1. Always be aware of and respect service users’ rights to make their own decisions where they have the capacity to do so.
2. Where a service user has been assessed as lacking capacity to make certain decisions, workers will ensure the five key principals of The Mental capacity Act 2005 are followed, and that any decisions relating to the care and support of the person are made in their best interest, and involve all key Stakeholders in the decision making process.
3. Staff will respect service user beliefs, views, values and wishes and will not attempt to impose their own personal beliefs, values, views or wishes upon service users ot to coerce service users to do anything that they do not wish to do.
4. Remember their duty to protect service users and to ensure a safe environment for them to live in.
5. Always offer every service user:
   1. the choice of how they wish to be addressed
   2. the choice of what they want to eat
   3. the choice of how they want to use their time
   4. the choice of how they wish to maintain their environment
   5. the choice of who they wish to associate with
   6. the freedom to manage their own finances wherever they are able to do so
   7. the freedom to control access to their accommodation
   8. the freedom to self-administer their own medication (if assessed as safe to do so).

**Training**

All staff are trained to recognize service users’ rights and to understand the importance of promoting autonomy and freedom in their induction, or signposting to independent Advocacy.

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| Date Reviewed: | Signature | Next Renewal Date |
| 06/08/2014 | Sharon Moore | 06/08/2015 |
| 06/08/2015 | Sharon Moore | 06/08/2016 |
| 16/08/2016 | Sharon Moore | 16/08/2017 |
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