

Care provider statement of intent to involve siblings

We are proud to be a care provider that involves siblings. We recognise that involving family members in the life of a person with lifelong learning disabilities and/or autism is key to improving their quality of life. Siblings have a great deal to offer and we are committed to listening to their views in order to build a better understanding of the person we support.

Why we want to involve siblings

Duty. We acknowledge our legal duty to involve family members in best interest decision-making and will invite siblings to these meetings. We recognise that a sibling may also hold special legal permissions for their brother or sister – such as deputyship or power of attorney.

Consistency. Siblings will often have the longest-standing relationship with their brother or sister, from birth into older age. We know that the value of this relationship cannot be underestimated when considering the long-term benefits and quality of life of the person we support.

Experience and expertise. Many siblings will have grown up alongside their brother or sister and have accumulated years of experience on medical, behavioural, communication and personal needs. They can provide a valuable history and context that the person we support may not be able to communicate themselves.

Future planning. The needs of the person we support may change over time and they may need to be supported by a different service. We recognise that the involvement of a sibling now, will result in a smoother transition to a future service if needed.

We will involve siblings by:

1. Listening to their opinions and taking them on board
2. Inviting them to meetings
3. Communicating regularly
4. Liaising when completing regular updates of their brother or sister's summary of care needs
5. Working closely with a sibling who identifies themselves as the main carer, point of contact or next of kin for their brother or sister
6. Providing a copy of all our relevant policies and procedures from the outset, including complaints and safeguarding
7. Regularly asking if they are happy with the care and support we are providing for their brother or sister, and
8. Ensuring all staff are aware of a sibling's involvement in the life of the person we support.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Name of manager: _____

Name of organisation: _____