



# Help guide to using a Community Micro-enterprise

If you pay for your own care, or receive a Direct Payment from Essex County Council, you can choose to pay a Community Micro-enterprise to support you.



## What is a Direct Payment?

A Direct Payment is when we give your Personal Budget directly to you.

It is your job to choose who you want to provide your care and support to help you meet your goals.

**You arrange this care and support yourself.**

## Benefits to using a Community Micro-enterprise

- **You have more choice and control over your own care and support**
- **Variety of services to choose from**
- **Flexible services**
- **Run by local people within your community**
- **No employment responsibilities**
- **Competitive Rates**

## What is a Community Micro-enterprise?

A Community Micro-enterprise is a small, local business, that offers a service to support:

- Older people
- People with a disability
- People that want to improve their mental health & wellbeing

A Community Micro-enterprise gives you more choice about your care as it offers something different to traditional support services.

They can offer a wide variety of support to help meet your needs:

- **Support at home** - personal care, meals, cleaning, shopping, running errands
- **Support you getting out and about in your community** - activities, hobbies, therapies, learning new skills, day services, peer support

**Community Micro-enterprises are flexible and personalised to help fit around what you want and need.**

# How do I find a Community Micro-enterprise?



## Tribe

Essex County Council are using the **Tribe Platform** to help connect people running Community Micro-enterprises with people who need support.

You can use Tribe by:

- visiting the website [www.tribeproject.org](http://www.tribeproject.org)
- or
- downloading the app.

Tribe lists services that are available to local people.

Some services charge and some are free.

Search for a Community Micro-enterprise by entering your location.

Results appear on a map and information about each Community Micro-enterprise is accessed by clicking on their individual profiles.

From here, you can go onto reach out and set up your care and support yourself.



Find help & support in using Tribe on the website or by using the app.

# What to do if you would like to use a Community Micro-enterprise

As you are organising your own care and support independently, without us doing this for you, it is very important to:

- know exactly what it is you want from the service you are paying for.
- know about the Community Micro-enterprise you would like to use.

Our checklist can help you think about what to consider.

## Other things to think about

Depending on what support service you need, here is a list of other things you may need to think about when looking into the Community Micro-enterprise you are interested in using.

- Specific training
- Policies & procedures
- Risk assessments
- Terms and conditions
- Invoicing information

## Checklist

**Firstly**, you need to have a clear idea of :

- ✓ what support you need
- ✓ how you want it
- ✓ when you want it

You can share this information with a Community Micro-enterprise that you are interested in using, and they will be able to tell you if they can offer you this type of support in this personalised way.

**Secondly**, you need to get to know the Community Micro-enterprise.

**Always** make sure that your Community Micro-enterprise has the basics:

- ✓ A Disclosure and Barring Service (**DBS**) Check
- ✓ Insurance
- ✓ Safeguarding Training
- ✓ Business Registration