

Document Name	Silvergrove Autonomy Guidance Policy			
Document Number				
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01/01/2026	01	01/01/2029	Emily Boyd on behalf of Silvergrove Home Care	<i>Emily Boyd</i>

### 1.0 Policy Statement

Silvergrove Home Care is committed to respecting and promoting the autonomy, independence, dignity and rights of all Service Users.

Autonomy means recognising a person's right to make their own choices and decisions about their care, daily routines, lifestyle and personal preferences. Silvergrove Home Care supports Service Users to maintain control over their lives while ensuring their safety, wellbeing and best interests.

This policy is guided by the HIQA National Standards for Home Care Services which emphasise person-centred care, respect for individual choice, and the right of individuals to direct their own care and support.

### 2.0 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that:

- Service Users are supported to make informed decisions about their care.
- Individual rights, preferences and choices are respected.
- Staff promote independence and self-determination wherever possible.
- Service Users are involved in planning, reviewing and directing their care.
- Staff understand their responsibilities in supporting autonomy while managing risk appropriately.

### **3.0 Scope**

This policy applies to:

- Home Support Workers
- Management and administrative staff
- Service Users
- Families, carers and representatives involved in care planning

### **4.0 Principles of Autonomy**

#### **4.1 Right to Choice**

Service Users have the right to make decisions about their care, daily routines and lifestyle choices.

#### **4.2 Person-Centred Care**

Care provided by Silvergrove Home Care reflects the individual's preferences, beliefs, culture, communication needs and personal routines.

#### **4.3 Independence**

Home Support Workers should encourage Service Users to remain as independent as possible by supporting participation in daily activities and promoting self-care where appropriate.

#### **4.4 Dignity and Respect**

All Service Users must be treated with dignity and respect at all times.

### **5.0 Supporting Decision-Making**

Silvergrove Home Care recognises the importance of supporting individuals to make decisions about their care.

Staff will:

- Provide clear and understandable information.
- Allow time for individuals to consider their options.
- Respect the individual's wishes and preferences.

- Support communication needs where required.
- Involve families or advocates where appropriate and with consent.

This approach aligns with the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015.

### **6.0 Balancing Choice and Risk**

Service Users have the right to make choices that may involve some level of risk.

Silvergrove Home Care will:

- Respect the right of individuals to take reasonable risks.
- Support individuals to make informed decisions.
- Conduct risk assessments where appropriate.
- Implement measures to minimise risk while preserving autonomy.

### **7.0 Role of Home Support Workers**

Home Support Workers must:

- Encourage Service Users to express their preferences.
- Support individuals in maintaining independence.
- Respect personal routines and choices.
- Maintain dignity and privacy.
- Report concerns about wellbeing or safety to management.

### **8.0 Involvement of Families and Representatives**

Families, carers and representatives may be involved in care planning where appropriate and with the consent of the Service User.

The wishes and preferences of the Service User must remain central to all decisions regarding care and support.

## **9.0 Complaints and Concerns**

Service Users have the right to raise concerns if they feel their autonomy or choices are not being respected. Concerns will be addressed through the Silvergrove Home Care Complaints Procedure.