

Please give this to anyone you would like to be an emergency contact

## Important information for emergency contacts

You have been asked to be an emergency contact, by a carer who is registering with the Carers Emergency Card scheme.



### What is the Emergency Card Scheme?

It is a scheme for carers who may worry about what will happen to the person they care for if they (the carer) is taken ill or has an accident or emergency.

Carers have an emergency card that they keep with them at all times. In an emergency anyone who finds this card can contact Be Independent using the emergency telephone number on the card. Staff at Be Independent will look up the carer's details and phone their emergency contact. The scheme is a partnership between York Carers Centre and Be Independent (formerly called Warden Call).

### What information does the carer give?

Carers complete a registration form that gives details about them and the care needs of the person they look after (an emergency plan). They can also give contact details (name, address and phone numbers) of up to 3 people to contact if there is an emergency.

### What counts as an emergency?

“a sudden, unplanned and temporary situation where the carer is not able to provide the care they usually provide, and the carer is prevented from making temporary arrangements themselves.”

## Who can be an emergency contact?

A friend, family member or neighbour who is willing to be contacted in an emergency, but **not** someone who supports the carer or cared for as part of their job. They may need to provide some short term care but that will depend on what is included in the emergency plan. Contacts do not have to live nearby if the carer is happy that they would be able to provide an appropriate level of support in an emergency, for example over the phone. The carer who has asked you to be an emergency contact will discuss their emergency plan with you and let you know what is expected.

## What happens in an emergency?

Be Independent will phone the first emergency contact listed on the emergency plan. If they are not available they will phone the second emergency contact listed, and so on, until they manage to contact someone who can help.

If an emergency contact can help then Be Independent won't ring the other contacts, or visit the cared for person, unless they are asked to.

If no emergency contacts are available to help then Be Independent will send a mobile warden or agency staff to visit the cared for person and decide if they are at risk if they are left alone.

## Emergency telephone numbers

Contacts may need to get in touch with Social Services to arrange additional help:

🕒 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday:

(01904) 555 111 (Adult Social Care Team)

🕒 out of office hours (including weekends): 01609 780780 (this is the Emergency Duty Team)

**As an emergency contact, you may also find it useful to have other phone numbers, such as the number for the GP of the person being cared for.**

## What we do with the information we hold about emergency contacts:

Your details are stored by Be Independent and York Carers Centre for the purposes of this scheme to ensure emergency support is provided to the person being cared for.

This information is stored securely and will only be used in an emergency.

All contact information needs to be kept up to date and we ask carers to ensure that the details of their emergency contacts are updated when needed.

If Be Independent ring you in an emergency the conversation will be recorded.

## Find out more

Contact York Carers Centre to find out more about the scheme.

**phone:** (01904) 715490

**write:** Carers Emergency Card, York Carers Centre, 17 Priory Street, York YO1 6ET

**email:**enquiries@yorkcarerscentre.co.uk

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