

Name: Anna Fleming

Job title: Domiciliary Care Manager



So what was your perception of networking, before your current role?

I think by nature of being in a self-employed role, you know the value of networking. I used to go to conferences and network in that way. I was always one for putting my hand up to get involved with working parties, because that seems the best way to go about things - getting your voice heard. I've also helped set up an association of social workers, locally to me.

Can you give us an example of something you've learned through the networks?

You know, the confidential aspect of the network meetings is brilliant. At the beginning of the meeting, the host asks you to just give your first name. Just mention if you're in home care or residential care, or wherever it is you're specialising. Everything we say is confidential. That makes it feel really safe.

I had an issue I wanted to bring up, and without using any identifying details, I could just talk about a sensitive scenario quite freely. Really useful to hear from different voices, and still feel comfortable about it - it's hard putting things out there that are a bit scary. And when you think about CQC registration for example, I think many case management companies feel as though they've been chucked in the deep end.

As a lone practitioner, taking on the registered manager status, I've got heaps of my working week committed to administration now - I can't do as much client-focused work. It's mind blowing, so when I'm with other registered managers, I can hear their fears too. It's reassuring. We're always saying, "what if we don't get it right?" But that's the really positive side of this - learning what's available outside our little world.





Local networks for registered
managers and deputy managers