



COVID-19

Self-Directed Support - Direct Payments

Temporary Guidance for Personal Assistant Employers

Key Workers - Personal Assistants

Personal Assistants are classed as key workers and all Personal Assistant employers will be receiving a letter from South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership to this effect. They may also request a verification letter from Take Control South Lanarkshire or download one from their website.

<http://www.gcil.org.uk/support/take-control/take-control-south-lanarkshire.aspx>

Your key worker should carry the To Whom It May Concern statement with them whilst undertaking duties for yourself when out in the community and carry I.D. also.

Key workers who have child care concerns can continue to send their child to school. South Lanarkshire View provides information in respect to this please see link below:
https://www.southlanarkshireview.scot/news/article/553/School_Hubs_stay_open_for_essential_workers

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

The Scottish Government has issued guidance regarding the use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) that should be followed within a Care at Home setting.

Personal Assistants who wear PPE whilst carrying out their normal duties should continue to do so.

PPE is now a requirement where a Personal Assistant employer has a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 or a member of the employers' household is symptomatic. PPE should also be worn where your Personal Assistant feels it is in their best interests to do so.

Where PPE is funded as part of your budget you should continue to use it for this purpose. As an interim measure your budget can be used if you require PPE to be used for your support.

South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership are in the process of looking at how and where PPE can be sourced for Personal Assistant employers. Once this information is available, we will provide this to you.

Personal Assistant employers may also be able to obtain information regarding their employment responsibilities re safe working etc from their insurance provider.

Please see links below for further information regarding PPE from the Scottish Government:
<https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-information-and-guidance-for-social-or-community-care-and-residential-settings/>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cmo-cno-cswa-letter-on-social-care-settings/>

Self-Isolating

If your Personal Assistant has self-isolated and you do not have anyone that can provide informal support, you should contact South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership as the Partnership has a duty of care to you. Please contact: 0303 123 1008 to discuss with a Duty Worker.

Redeployment of Personal Assistants

Where your Personal Assistant is not needed to provide support to yourself due to self-isolation, family providing care etc, your employee may be able to be redeployed into another position within Social Care on a temporary basis.

For example, supporting another Personal Assistant employer who might be in need of assistance or being redeployed into a local authority setting providing Care at Home, within a Care Home or Care and Support Team.

Safe and effective recruitment should still be followed by Personal Assistant employers such as PVG checks, references etc and temporary contracts being put in place. Take Control South Lanarkshire can still be contacted regarding assistance.

If your Personal Assistant wishes to be considered for redeployment into a local authority setting on a temporary basis, they should contact Take Control South Lanarkshire or South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership to express their interest.

Direct Payment Agreement

Payments

Your Direct Payment will continue to be paid as per your normal payment cycle. If there is any change to this arrangement, we will let you know.

Employment of Close Relatives

South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership has decided to suspend the framework for consideration of close relatives to be employed to provide support to supported persons during this time.

The Partnership recognises that at this time families and communities are being asked to step up and provide support to supported persons across all services.

Direct Payment Funding

Your Direct Payment should only be used for the support that has been agreed and is outlined within your Support Plan or Child's Plan. It should not be used for any other purpose or in place of services that the local authority would provide through other Self-Directed Support options.

Where replacement care would have been provided by use of a respite facility this will be considered on a case by case basis by South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

Guidance for Personal Assistant Employers

The UK Government has provided guidance for employers in respect to Statutory Sick Pay, Benefits, Furlough etc.

Please see link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

There are many issues that could affect employers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic including self-isolation, home working and child care. Personal Assistant employers should check contracts of employment and seek guidance from their insurance provider before making any decisions regarding their employee.

Insurance providers may also have a range of factsheets available on their websites that may be of assistance to you.

Independent Information, Advice and Support

Personal Assistant employers should contact Take Control South Lanarkshire if independent information, advice and support is required in relation to your support.

This may be done by Telephone: 01698 892372 or Email: infosl@takectrl.org.uk

Please see attached link below:

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200221/children_and_families/985/self-directed_support/5

If you need this information in another language or format please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

Phone: 0303 123 1015

Email: equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk