



TRAFFORD COUNCIL

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POST TOWN (ALL CAPS)
POSTCODE (ALL CAPS)

19.03.2020

Direct payment Covid-19 Update

Dear Direct Payment Recipients,

We are entering unprecedented global challenges in dealing with the coronavirus. As you will be aware this is a fast moving situation and the national guidance changes on a daily basis. In Trafford, we know too that this is a challenging time for you, your families and friends. We take our duty of care to you extremely seriously, hence why we are writing out to you. This is going to require us to do things differently in certain areas. So we are now asking you to think about how you can ensure that you continue to be supported.

We are asking that you start to think about what would happen in the advent of the virus affecting the agency, day service, respite service or Personal Assistants you employ. If you use agencies to support you, they should have a Business Continuity Plan in place. Discussing the plan with your agency would be beneficial.

If Day Service support is used, the attributing funding can be used flexibly to meet the same assessed need with the agreed budget. Many day services are repurposing their capacity and are offering alternative support arrangements; I would recommend discussing your available options with your chosen providers

If you employ Personal Assistants we advise revisiting any contingency plans you may have in the event of staff absence due to the impact of the virus. Consider what alternative support could you access in such instances, do you have other employees you can call on, do you have access to or are known to a domiciliary care agency? Could family or friends help support you if required to do so to ensure your basic care needs are met?

Personal Hygiene and proper hand washing are critical to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission; the Council is providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) training for all Care Providers and Direct Payment recipients who employ personal assistants. We will offer training to one Direct Payment (DP) employee per care package who will then be expected to communicate and demonstrate the use of PPE to the rest of the employees. There will be a maximum of 15 places per date, starting on the 23rd of March at Sale Waterside House. To request to attend and any further information as regards the dates, email: Learninganddevelopmentteam@trafford.gov.uk You will be requested to provide the service users name, the employee's name, email address and a list of 3 available dates they can attend. We have also enclosed copies of covid-19 guidance as provided by our Employment Insurance providers which may of use to you.

The council is also committed to providing extra funding to our DP recipients in the event of a member of employed staff having to self-isolate for a period of 2 weeks to ensure the continuity of your support. If there is insufficient funding in the DP account due to the fact that funding for sick pay has already been exhausted, contingency funding can be applied for by emailing your Social Work Team.

For Adult Social Service Funded Clients:

DirectPayments@trafford.gov.uk or by calling 0161 912 2701.

For Children's Services:

Please contact your social care reviewing officer or your social worker directly.

The situation is changing daily and Trafford Council is working with the NHS and its Care Industry Partners to deal with this situation.

Further information and advice can be found on

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>