

## Questions raised through – the Webinar on Contingency Planning for people with Direct Payments during the coronavirus crisis – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Question Asked	Answer Given
Clarification please in using the disability act (Miro mention) and new legislation around care act and social/health support.	There is currently guidance being developed on care Act Easeness. There is a specific webinar being held on this issue on Monday at 11am hosted by Barrister Steve Broach.
Could a fact sheet be developed following these presentations to assist PHB holders as to what they could do and consider to contingency plan... 3 main headings - what to do at home, PA and what to do if client falls unwell	Yes, we will explore this. There are so many factsheets already developing from the webinars already. There are direct links <a href="http://www.behuman.org.uk/coronaheroes">www.behuman.org.uk/coronaheroes</a>
Do you have any easy read information for LD people who are dealing with this situation?	<a href="https://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/what-we-do/keeping-informed-and-in-touch-during-coronavirus/information-and-guidance/">https://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/what-we-do/keeping-informed-and-in-touch-during-coronavirus/information-and-guidance/</a> and <a href="https://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/news/information-on-the-coronavirus/">https://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/news/information-on-the-coronavirus/</a>
How do I get PPE supplies when not attached to a known care supplier as my son has a SDS package run by me my mother?	Anyone supporting people who are on Direct Payments have been confirmed to be classed as critical keyworkers. If you do not have the budget within your direct payment contact your social worker or if on a personal health budget your CCG.
We have totally isolated and no one is coming in or out of the house apart from exercise and walking the dog. Our PAs are desperate to know about whether they will be laid off or do we follow the furlough line? We are also paying family members and have informed the LA of this and like Miro says we have given them a deadline which has been exceeded.	We will try to pick this up today. There is also a specific webinar on employment issues being led by a senior solicitor from Disability Law service. Taking place at 11am on the 1st April.
It is important that teating is a priority for us as well as other care staff so far 2 staff have been in isolation will this happen	We will raise the importance of ensuring that people with a DP a high priority for testing
I'm concerned that without testing staff are self isolating and then it's down to me to do it all	We will raise the importance of ensuring that people with a DP a high priority for testing

<p>Where do you get confirmation that they are critical workers</p>	<p>Your employers liability insurance company can help with employment and legal queries - Such as SSP, PPE etc. Thank you, we will add this link to <a href="http://www.be-human.org.uk/coronaheroes">www.be-human.org.uk/coronaheroes</a> to share with others</p>
<p>If a PA is instructed to self isolate for 6 weeks because they are in the underlying health conditions are they entitled to SSP only or to apply to the job retention scheme?</p>	<p>Yes and we will be hosting a webinar specifically on employment issues with a senior solicitor on employment and discrimination on April 1st but in the meantime this is really helpful &gt;&gt;&gt;<a href="https://www.pendereltrust.org.uk/pdf/EmployerFAQ.pdf">https://www.pendereltrust.org.uk/pdf/EmployerFAQ.pdf</a></p>
<p>One question that is coming up is around clarity on payments for Direct Payment PAs who are unable to work. Does the retention scheme apply etc. This is likely to be an important issue in children's services where budgets are largely used to support short breaks rather than personal care.</p>	<p>We will try to pick this up today. There is also a specific webinar on employment issues being led by a senior solicitor from Disability Law service. Taking place at 11am on the 1st April.</p>
<p>One of my PA's has no spleen and her husband is also diabetic. She feels that she should be self isolating, but is yet to receive confirmation from a doctor or the NHS about doing so. Until this happens she is not entitled to SSP. Any advice on this would be appreciated.</p>	<p>Options are &gt; classified as symptomatic thus self-isolating. Protection of life is the most important. Could the PA do other tasks etc... on live</p>
<p>We've had feedback from some clients that places aren't accepting self written letters</p>	<p>We will take this up nationally. As there has been a request for ID cards as well as the letter. The letter should detail the PA's full name, who they are supporting and number to ring for confirmation. Some payrolls, CCG's and Councils have offered this type of letter. Some people and families have created their own employee ID badges.</p>
<p>Hi, I realise this isn't a contingency related question and might be more suited for a later webinar but it's relevant to Direct Payments. I've been discussing with my payroll provider/independent living advice provider, about the impact the increase in minimum wage will have, and getting my budget increased to reflect this. Given the emergency legislation that has now gone through, which has reduced the council's obligations, should I pursue this as I would normally so that I am able to pay my staff minimum wage, or should I delay this- is there a risk my budget will get reduced in the current climate of lesser obligations of care.</p>	<p>Miro &gt; State clearly what you are demanding and why you are doing this. If there is a problem with this (give a timescale) for response. Request this now &gt; assertion and urgent. Julie &gt; the emergency legislation though passed has not been activated by any council as yet so would suggest you make this request now and ask for the additional funds to be transferred into your DP account.</p>

<p>We are seeing lots of advocates being blocked from accessing wards and care homes - some are having blanket bans on visitors. Any thoughts on whether this is ok?</p>	<p>Our understanding is the Care Act legislation still remains in regards to advocates. Whether this be face to face in person advocacy would be a risk assessment that needs to be made. We will raise this at the access to Care webinar with Barrister Steve broach</p>
<p>Mark Bates Ltd Insurance have some useful guides:  <a href="https://markbatesltd.com/coronavirus-covid-19">https://markbatesltd.com/coronavirus-covid-19</a></p>	<p>Your employer's liability insurance company can help with employment and legal queries - Such as SSP, PPE etc. Thank you, we will add this link to <a href="http://www.be-human.org.uk/coronaheroes">www.be-human.org.uk/coronaheroes</a> to share with others</p>
<p>I use an agency for my care. I have only 3 people coming in. But they go to other people's houses what can I do to minimize the risk to me?</p>	<p>The agency should be putting safeguards in place. Some people and families are asking workers to wash at the door and following similar lines of action that Miro described, obviously the levels of this depend on the level of risk, your concern and your health.</p>
<p>How would you get documentation to prove your directly employed carer is a critical worker? as they don't have NHS badges or papers.</p>	<p>Anyone supporting people who are on Direct Payments have been confirmed to be classed as critical keyworkers. If you do not have the budget within your direct payment contact your social worker or if on a personal health budget your CCG.</p>
<p>We have 6 paid carers coming in. What are the options</p>	<p>Miro is going through some options now, but any further questions please add</p>
<p>We have 6 paid carers. We are thinking of looking after our daughter on our own, and stopping the carers coming in from 6 different households. What are our options for how we tell these staff. How do we pay them, or put them on holiday, or put on a retainer. What is the guidance for what staff are entitled to, or what decisions we can make on how we administer their pay etc.</p>	<p>This is understandable and a lot of people are thinking about this. There is some helpful employment advice available now on <a href="http://www.be-human.org.uk/coronaheroes">www.be-human.org.uk/coronaheroes</a> and also we are hosting a very specific webinar on employment issues with a senior solicitor on the 1st April. Some people, have in the meantime, paid full pay retainment or suspended on full pay.</p>
<p>Is there a resource we can go to which sets out Gov't / Social Services / official advice on employer options if we choose to tell the caring staff not to come to work.</p>	<p>Not yet, but there is some employment law guidance.</p>

<p>Is there a procedure for getting "priority" on home deliveries from supermarkets. Adult with Learning Disabilities, and 24 hour care package. Do we just ring / email the supermarket same as everyone else, or is there an avenue for pointing out our need.</p>	<p>We have been told most major supermarkets are now prioritising home deliveries. Contact the one you use and ask about the process.</p>
<p>What if PA's are stopped by the police under the current rules? How do they prove they are carers?</p>	<p>We will take this up nationally. As there has been a request for ID cards as well as the letter. The letter should detail the PA's full name, who they are supporting and number to ring for confirmation. Some payrolls, CCG's and Councils have offered this type of letter, if they haven't, get in touch with them. Some people and families have created their own employee ID badges.</p>
<p>My question concerns the changes to SEND provision that have been pushed through in the The Coronavirus Act. Q.What should I be doing now to ensure my child's LA/special school placement will continue to provide his specialist provision in his EHCP, once he returns to school? (He is autistic with LD. EHC since 2015 with named special school. School has encouraged us to keep home-isolated while they stay open at this time.) We were due to finalise a delayed draft amendment to EHC after Easter- updating provision and naming a secondary special school in readiness for next year.) Will this all now have to be a huge legal fight for obtaining his appropriate provision in time? (I am also autistic, disabled, my partner is carer- we are exhausted with the system and don't want to break down relationship with the school if possible.) Any advice at this time would be hugely appreciated.</p>	<p>Barrister Steve Broach would be best to answer this at the webinar on Monday 30th March. I will raise this as a question to him and/or do log into that webinar.</p>