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Our ref: Covid-19 and DP
Date: 27th April 2020

Dear

RE: Covid-19 (Coronavirus)

The spread of coronavirus is a serious concern across the country, and we are living in unprecedented times. We are following advice to try to reduce the risk of infection and to minimise the risk to people who may be especially vulnerable. I am writing to offer some information and advice about how we are managing support for Lancashire residents who rely upon it.

Covid-19 may result in high levels of staff sickness impacting on the people who employ personal assistants or purchase support from care providers. The Council is working closely with the Lancashire Independent Living Service (LILS) to ensure that people in receipt of direct payments are supported to manage their care arrangements.

General advice on using Direct Payments during Covid-19 Crisis is available on the Lancashire County Council, Direct Payment webpage. Please visit:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adult-social-care/getting-our-support/direct-payments/>.

Direct Payments and Funding Implication during the Covid-19 Crisis

To discuss funding implications as a result of having to purchase equipment and clothing or make changes to your staff team (personal assistants) and care providers, please contact the Lancashire Independent Living Service (LILS) on 01772 558 863 or email: lils@disability-equality.org.uk.

Covid-19: Infection Control, Protective Equipment and Clothing

For further advice on infection control and the equipment/clothing that you might need, should you or the staff supporting you start developing symptoms of Coronavirus/Covid-19, visit the Lancashire County Council Direct Payment webpage.

Covid-19 Testing for Personal Assistants

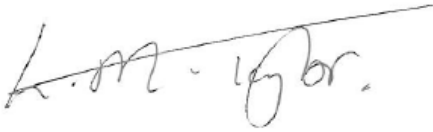
The Coronavirus National Testing Programme has now expanded capacity to test Personal Assistants who are having to self-isolate due to having coronavirus-like symptoms or because a member of their household has symptoms. Further information

on testing for Covid-19 is available on the Lancashire County Council Direct Payment webpage.

I hope that this letter has not caused you any additional anxiety. Our sole intention is to plan for the possibility of difficult times and to reduce the spread of infection. I want to reassure you that we are working to ensure that those most reliant on care and support will receive it.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, relating to your responsibilities as an employer of personal assistants or about issues regarding direct payments due to Covid-19, please contact LILS on 01772 558 863 or email: lils@disability-equality.org.uk

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Taylor', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Louise Taylor
Executive Director of Adult Services and Health & Wellbeing