

# Newsletter for Care Managers

**COVID 19 Edition** 





# Home Working & Open for business!

Take Control South Lanarkshire staff have been home working since the 23rd March, 2020 and we are **open for business!** We are working hard to ensure that we can continue to offer as close to a full service as we can, under the current circumstances.

This special edition of 'Your Self-directed Support Update' provides information about all the services we are able to offer during this COVID 19 period.

Please contact us if you would like any of our information materials, have any specific questions about Self-directed Support or would like to make a referral to our service.

We hope that you are keeping well.



## **In This Issue**

What's happening at Take Ctrl	Page 4
Take Ctrl's response to COVID 19	Page 6
'Did ye Know?' A guide to Take Ctrl services for SLHSCP staff	Page 6
PA Network Training Opportunities	Page 7
Scottish Government Guidance for PA employers - COVID 19	Page 7
ILF Scotland Update	Page 9



## What's happening at Take Ctrl?

#### How to contact us

- The Take Control telephone number 01698 892 372 is still in use. The phone will be answered by one of our staff who will answer your enquiry, or pass you to the relevant member of staff.
- You can email us at <a href="mailto:infosl@takectrl.org.uk">infosl@takectrl.org.uk</a> or email the Adviser who is working with your Supported Person.
- British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us via www.contactscotland-bsl.org.

**Information:** We have information packs available for anyone contacting us seeking information about Self-directed Support and/or our services. We can send this pack to you by:

- posting a paper copy
- email.

If you require this information in another language or format, please contact the office on the number above.

SDS Development Worker: Helen can offer information and advice to anyone who would like to know more about Self- directed Support or who would like to have a discussion about how Self-directed Support might benefit Supported Persons or Carers. We can do this by phone, email, webchat or Zoom confidential video conferencing.

Email: helen@takectrl.org.uk



**HSCP staff and students:** Unfortunately we are unable to run any in-person information workshops for staff and students at the moment. However we can offer the following:

- A comprehensive information pack about Self-directed Support, including a copy of the Government's Statutory Guidance, is provided to all staff and students who attend the workshops. We would be happy to email or post this pack to anyone who feels it would be helpful.
- Helen can organise a 1:1 or small group video chat on Zoom or Teams to provide information or answer specific questions about any aspect of Self-directed Support

Contact helen@takectrl.org.uk to arrange.

**Support Team:** Agnes, Sharon and Louise continue to assist Supported Persons and their Carers on a 1-1 basis and even though we are working from home we can still offer support with all aspects of our service including:

- Recruitment
- Insurance
- Payroll
- Understanding the responsibilities of a PA Employer



We are still recruiting on behalf of Employers – we can help write a job advert, post it on the Indeed job search website, and pass on any CVs for consideration. We can help organise video call interviews using Teams or Zoom, and can assist to organise socially distanced second interviews in person.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Take Control is co-ordinating requests for PPE from PA Employers who are experiencing difficulty sourcing PPE from their regular supplier. We can provide one week's emergency supply of PPE for anyone who can't source it through their usual routes. Please contact Louise on **01698 892 372** from Monday - Friday between 9.30am - 4.30pm.

Family Carers should phone Lanarkshire Carers' Centre on 01698 428090; they will be triaged and appropriate PPE will be requested for delivery to them from the local Hub.

#### 'Did ye Know?' Care Managers' Guide to Take Ctrl

We have produced a new guide to Take Control's services for South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care staff. The booklet explains how Take Control can support individuals and families to make Self-directed Support work for them and we hope that this handbook will be helpful to staff who are working with people who may wish to manage their Self-directed Support packages. Please contact helen@takectrl.org.uk or louise@takectrl.org.uk for a paper or PDF copy.



# Free Online Training for Personal Assistants

The Personal Assistants Network Scotland are offering a limited number of learning opportunities to Personal Assistants employed directly by the person they support. These online learning modules are via Social Care TV, the UK's first accredited e-learning provider for health and social care providers of all types. Each module takes around 90 minutes on average to complete and is made up of video teaching and questions to assess understanding.

Subjects available at this time are:

- Communicating Effectively
- Food Hygiene
- Health & Safety
- Infection Control
- Safe Administration of Medicines
- Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults

To register an interest please email **palearning@wea.org.uk** with your name, contact number and local authority area. You will then be sent an enrolment form per module which must be completed prior to you being issued with registration instructions and login details. Certification will be issued via email upon completion of the online module.

We also ask that anyone taking part in the learning also registers with the PA Network at:

www.panetworkscotland.org.uk using the stay informed button.

Should you have any questions about the learning please email us on palearning@wea.org.uk





# Scottish Government Guidance - Options 1 and 2

The Scottish Government and Social Work Scotland have published detailed COVID 19 guidance, for SDS Options 1 and 2 as well as Frequently Asked Questions, for PA employers. The guidance includes information about the flexible use of Option 1, funding care and support, access to assessments of need, self-isolation and shielding, access to PPE and may more issues. To access this document please click on the buttons below for the full document and the Frequently Asked Questions.

- Covid-19: Guidance on Self-directed Support Option 1 and Option 2
- Frequently Asked Questions to accompany Scottish Government and COSLA Guidance on Self-directed Support Option 1 and Option 2 during the Coronavirus pandemic

If you have any examples of being flexible with budgets, please let us know as we'd be keen to publicise success stories or provide advice around the guidance to encourage flexible use of funds.



### **ILF Scotland Update**

ILF Scotland have just published their first external newsletter. The newsletter contains up to date information about their current services and response to the COVID 19 situation.

Here are some of the main points:

- The ILF Operations Team can be contacted by calling 0300 200 2022 or by email at enquiries@ilf.scot and they will be more than happy to help. You can find more information on the ILF website www.ilf.scot, including the most up to date reduced opening hours. Most of the staff are working from home, but are answering telephone calls and emails every day of the working week.
- With effect from the 1st March 2020 and for a four month period initially, ILF Scotland can continue to pay all awards to allow recipients / award managers to continue to pay their PAs and care providers.
- If an ILF recipient needs to purchase alternative support because their agency or PA cannot provide this as normal, they can do so from another agency or PA and fund this from contingency/unspent monies. If sufficient sums are not available, ILF Scotland will consider, on a case by case basis, funding the additional costs for a maximum of 12 weeks initially, with the option of extending this further if required.



- ILF Scotland expect recipients to pay PAs the Scottish Living Wage rate of £9.30 from 1 April 2020 (previously £9.00). With prior agreement from ILF Scotland, recipients can also employ a friend or family member (including those living in the same household if this is the only option) temporarily as a PA to provide the replacement support that ILF currently pays for, but that person must be registered with to payroll to comply with HMRC.
- The Transition Fund continues to remain open at this time and is accepting applications from young disabled people aged 16-25.

For more detailed information please refer to the ILF website **www.ilf.scot** or the ILF Newsletter. Please click on the button to the right.







### **Get in Touch**



Here are our contact details; if you would like to speak to us on video call, please contact us as below and we can organise a call for you:

### **Take Ctrl South Lanarkshire**



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