



Home Working but open for business!

GCIL staff have now been home working since the 23rd March but we are **open for business!** We have been working hard to ensure that we can continue to offer as close to a full service as we can, under the current circumstances.

How to contact us

- The GCIL telephone number **0141 550 4455** should be used. The phone will be answered by one of our admin team. The message will be passed to the appropriate member of staff who will respond to your enquiry.
- You can email us at gciil@gciil.org.uk or email your Advisor
- British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us via www.contactscotland-bsl.org

Information: We have information packs available for anyone who contacts us seeking information about Self-directed Support or any of our services. We can send this information to you by:

- Posting a paper copy;
- Posting the information contained on a flash drive;
- By email;

The Development Team: The team can offer information and advice to anyone who would like to know more about Self-directed Support or if you would like to have a discussion about how Self-directed Support might benefit you or, if you are a carer, the person you support. We can do this by phone, email or Zoom 1:1 confidential video conferencing.

GCIL Support Team: Our team of Advisors can continue to support you on a 1:1 basis on the phone, e-mail and video and although we are working from home we can still offer support with all aspects of our service including:

- Recruitment;
- Temporary Cover;
- Insurance;
- Payroll;
- Understanding your responsibilities as an employer.

All direct payment users in Glasgow will have received a letter from Glasgow City Council, HSCP giving you information and guidance about direct payments during COVID-19. You can see a copy of this letter on the GCIL website by clicking on **Support then Self-directed Support and then look at the 'related content' on the right hand side of the page.**

You will also receive a letter shortly from them about the 3.3% uplift to the direct payment rate. This will allow you to increase your Personal Assistants hourly rate to £9.30 per hour this should be backdated to April 2020. For support to action this please give your Advisor or Duty Advisor a call.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) The GCIL Support Team is also coordinating requests for PPE from any PA employers who are experiencing difficulty sourcing PPE from your regular supplier. If your Personal Assistant/s require PPE please contact GCIL Tel: **0141 550 4455** from Monday - Friday between 9.30am - 4.30pm. One of our Advisors will take details of your requirements and pass your request to the HSCP Hub who will respond. On Saturdays and Sundays phone **0141 276 3175**.

Family carers should phone the Carers Information Line **0141 353 6504**. If none of these options are available, phone the Social Care Support line on **0300 303 3020**

Emergency Cover If you find yourself in need of emergency cover when all your usual arrangements breakdown. Please let your Social Worker/Duty Social Worker know immediately by calling your local social work office. There is also Social Care Direct **0141 287 0555** during office hours.

If you need a service outwith office hours, you can contact Glasgow and Partners Emergency Social Work Services on **0300 343 1505**.

Scottish Government Guidance



The Scottish Government and Social Work Scotland have published detailed COVID-19 guidance, in the form of 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:

- use this link: [Frequently Asked Questions to accompany Scottish Government and COSLA Guidance on Self-directed Support Option 1 and Option 2 during the Coronavirus pandemic](#) or
- contact us for a printed copy to be posted to you.



ILF Scotland Update

ILF Scotland have just published their first newsletter for ILF recipients available via this link. <https://ilf.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/44161-ILF-Print-Post-Newsletter-FOR-ONLINE.pdf>

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:

- You can contact the ILF Operations Team 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 and for a 4 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, 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 recorded 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 or ILF Newsletter.

Glasgow Disability Alliance



GDA are offering a range of support services during this COVID 19 period. These include:

GDA Wellbeing: Phone and online support to help people to improve mental and physical wellbeing;

GDA Lifeline: Sourcing, coordinating and delivering shopping, medication and other essential resources;

GDA Connects: Provides IT devices, equipment and support so disabled people can get online and stay connected;

GDA Learning: Online and phone peer support and online learning opportunities.

For more information phone 0800 432 0422 or email info@gdaonline.co.uk

A Call Out to PAs! Online Get Together **Thursday 2nd July @ 10.30am**



Join us for a Get Together hosted by PA Network Scotland and GCIL. While we are unable to get together in person to hear your news, answer your questions and enjoy your company, let's get together via Zoom and keep us all connected during these challenging times. A fun interactive session incorporating a summer themed quiz plus your chance to chat to others and share news. Bring your own cuppa & biscuits and find a comfortable spot to dial in.

Register for the session below and you will be sent confirmation and login details in advance of the day. Please note only those registered will be

admitted to the session therefore please do not share your login details with anyone else. Anyone who might be interested in attending should register, in advance of the meeting, using the link here.

<https://the-wea.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlvduuuqDlpEtyuBg7Z7UfyxkSE4p45cF3>

Please note this link will take you to a registration form only and will not enable you to join the session - please register to receive further details.

PA Temporary employment opportunities: GCIL is seeking to identify Personal Assistants working in Glasgow who may be available to work, on a temporary basis, to assist services users who's PAs are currently unable to work due to illness or requiring to self-isolate.

If you know if any existing PAs who have available hours, and would be prepared to work on a temporary basis with another service user, please ask the PA to complete the online form on the GCIL website.

All the information provided will be held securely and confidentially and the PA will be contacted by a member of GCIL staff if we identify a service user who may have a suitable job opportunity.

Making our voices heard - the experiences of disabled people and COVID-19

We thought you may be interested in the following opportunity to add to the growing information about the impact of COVID-19 on disabled people. These are difficult times for everyone, but it is already becoming clear that disabled people have been affected especially hard by the pandemic. The University of Glasgow has contacted GCIL to let you know about research they are carrying out

Are you a disabled person? We would like to talk to you about the COVID-19 pandemic. The University of Glasgow and The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine are conducting research about how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the lives of disabled people in England and Scotland. We are concerned that the experiences of disabled people have not been heard. The information we get from the study will help us understand how the pandemic has affected disabled people's lives. We will use this information to try and influence policy and practice in order to improve the lives of disabled people.

In Scotland, our research team are seeking to interview a range of disabled people with different experiences. We would ideally like to interview each person twice during the next few months so that we can understand how things change for you over time. We are seeking to interview:

- People with physical, sensory, intellectual, or cognitive impairments;
- Parents of disabled children and the children themselves, with parental permission;
- Disabled adults under the age of 65 who use social care in community;
- Disabled people over the age of 70;
- People with mental health conditions or diagnoses.;

The first of the two interviews will include questions on:

- The impact of COVID-19 on typical activities (e.g. work, shopping, lifestyle) and services (e.g. healthcare, social care).
- The impact of COVID-19 on personal mental health and well-being.
- Experiences of accessing healthcare for COVID-19, if relevant.
- The impact of the Scottish Government's response measures.
- How responses to COVID-19 could be improved to enhance the lives of disabled people.

We expect that each interview will last up to one hour. One of our researchers will interview each person, whilst maintaining COVID-19 social distancing, using a method that is accessible for each individual (e.g. telephone, zoom, skype or email). All interviews will be audio-recorded and transcribed. Everyone who takes part will remain anonymous, meaning your name and identifying information will not be shared with anyone outside the research team, and you will not be identified in anything that we publish. Taking part in the study will not influence any services that you receive. Everyone who takes part will be offered a small gift voucher to recognise their time. **If you would like to discuss taking part in this research study, please contact in confidence:**

Professor Nick Watson, Centre for Disability Research, University of Glasgow.

Telephone: 07739136563 Email: Nicholas.watson@glasgow.ac.uk