



**Interim Director of Adult Social Care**  
**Jane Bearman**

*Date:* 15th April 2020



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
**KINGSTON**  
UPON THAMES

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<http://www.kingston.gov.uk>

Dear Sir / Madam,

I hope you are keeping well in these challenging times. Kingston Council is dedicated to supporting people using Direct Payments and employing Personal Assistants (PAs) throughout this difficult period.

I am writing to inform you about some important decisions we have made to support you over the coming weeks.

1. Everyone using Direct Payments will receive an extra 30% in their budget for the month of April. This is to help you have greater flexibility in arranging support to meet your needs during this period. This is a one-off payment.
2. If your PA needs to self-isolate because of the Coronavirus (Corvid-19), we will pay additional funds for up to 14 days to help you employ an alternative Personal Assistant. This only applies if you employ your own PA. If you ask us (Kingston Council) to arrange services directly, then you will not be able to get additional payment. PA cover can include friends or family members for this period. Please let your social worker know if you need to do this and need additional payment.


3. If you pay your PAs less than the London Living Wage (LLW) of £10.75 an hour, you can increase their pay to the LLW rate from 6th April 2020. Please contact your social worker to facilitate.

Your next 4-weekly payment is due into your account on 16th April 2020. Please be assured there will be no changes to the existing 4 weekly payment schedule during the period of the Covid-19 pandemic.

If you have any questions, please call our contact centre on 020 8547 5005.

In addition, the Council are aware of plans to enable PAs to access testing. We are awaiting further guidance on this and will send further information as soon as it is available. The Council are also eager for PAs to have access to Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), where appropriate. If you or your PA would like to know more about PPE or testing for PAs please contact Lisa Ehlers at KCIL via email at [lisa.ehlers@kcil.org.uk](mailto:lisa.ehlers@kcil.org.uk) or telephone – 020 8546 9603.

Your faithfully,



Iain Richmond  
**Corporate Head of Service for Mental Wellbeing, DOLS, Carers, Direct Payments  
Kingston Adult Social Care**