NEWS 21/10/2020

1. DIRECT PAYMENTS:

Buckinghamshire council have had discussions over the last few months re the virtual wallet – although this system will remain in place for the next 9 months they are favouring pre-payment cards – this acts exactly like a bank card but will need the client or clients representative to make payment for them either by internet or telephone banking. Your clients may receive a letter to say that they are being transferred.

2. COVID-19:

I have taken direction from Buckinghamshire council re isolation – the guidance stands that if your child has been asked to isolate due to someone in their school bubble having COVID-19 they are to isolate for 14 days but you can carry on as normal ONLY if your child shows symptoms or you get symptoms should you isolate and get a test.

With this in mind please try to find another PA to introduce to your client in the event of you being ill yourself.

3. PPE

Following information from the provider forum Buckinghamshire council have said that following Government guidance, Free PPE should be offered to Personal Assistants up and until March 2021 (however it has not been clarified if this applies to self-employed!) and will only apply to Face Masks as this is something that is being used above what would usually be expected.

As stated before I received a grant to cover the cost of 40 boxes of face masks as a team we have used all of this – but to continue to keep you safe, I will continue with providing free face masks until we get confirmation as to whether Self-employed PA’s qualify.

Please continue to follow the guidelines when it comes to PPE – IF appropriate gloves and aprons to be worn and face masks at all times.

4. CHRISTMAS

We only have can you believe 10 weeks until Christmas is with us, just a reminder that you should be having conversations with your clients / NOK as to what support is needed over the Christmas period. Clients who need support will ultimately be your responsibility to either support or get cover for. Please ensure that your clients do have contracts in place as bank holidays are charged at double time

5. CARE JOURNALS

It is really important that you keep good records as evidence of the visit and what you have done, this is so that at any given time a NOK or Care managers can see what has been happening with the clients support.

6 TRAINING.

As part of your own continuous development I will once a month put out a training course to do, This is not mandatory as I am not your manager however this helps with knowledge and understanding of the social care sector – This month can everyone who has not done it do the COVID-19 training.

Mandatory training will still be required when due or become out of date.

\*ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE LET ME KNOW\*