

**We are People First.**



1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Dear Colleague,

### **People First Chat and Check Service**

I would like to introduce to you a new Covid-19 support service for people who have learning disabilities and /or autism called 'Keeping People connected'. As you will know people with learning disabilities and/or autism can be extremely vulnerable in normal times, this is of course magnified by the current international Covid-19 crisis.

People First has been working with NHS England and other partner organisations to put in place a dedicated support service for people with learning disabilities and /or autism. The service includes check and chat calls from specialist advocacy staff who will work with a person to understand and access their current situation, including issues such as health and wellbeing, food, medication, isolations, support needs, safety and understanding of the current situation re lockdown and shielding.

People will then be supported by having regular 'check and chat' calls during the week, and signposted to more specialist statutory services if needed. Safeguarding concerns will be addressed rapidly.

We need your help to make contact with the people who would benefit from the service. Please share the attached flyer and this letter with as many people as possible, and/ or make contact with us to give us names of people who would benefit from a regular check in call.

It's our duty to protect the most vulnerable in our society, this new service can do that. In time we hope to be able to connect people with peers to provide group (virtual) support.

**Carlisle The People First Conference Centre** Milbourne Street, Carlisle, Cumbria CA2 5XB  
**Workington The Best Life Building** 4-8 Oxford Street, Workington, Cumbria CA14 2AH  
**Barrow-in-Furness Cavendish House** 78 Duke Street, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LA14 1RR  
**Leyland Lancashire Business Park** Leyland House, Centurion Way, Leyland, Lancashire PR26 6TY

  [wearepeoplefirst.co.uk](https://www.wearepeoplefirst.co.uk) [hello@wearepeoplefirst.co.uk](mailto:hello@wearepeoplefirst.co.uk)

**People First Independent Advocacy** are a Registered Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registered Charity No.1184112 Company No.5438407



The Keeping People Connected service will offer;

- Immediate safety assessments
- Support, connection,
- Advice and information in accessible formats
- Signposting to specialist service
- Regular check in calls by trained professionals
- Friendship and support to be less isolated
- Safeguarding referrals where appropriate

To discuss this further please contact Cathy Mellstrom on 07763 542284 or e mail

[cathy.mellstrom@wearepeoplefirst.co.uk](mailto:cathy.mellstrom@wearepeoplefirst.co.uk)

Thank you for directing people to us

Yours sincerely

**David Blacklock**

Chief Executive Officer

[david@wearepeoplefirst.co.uk](mailto:david@wearepeoplefirst.co.uk)

Tel 0300 303 8037