



## General Information – Applicants

### Assisted Living Personal Assistant (PA) Services HSE / Cork CIL-South Lee

#### **What is a Assisted Living Personal Assistant (ALS-PA)?**

A Personal Assistant [PA] is a qualified health and social care worker who works with and for a person with a disability so that they can achieve the independence they want. Everyone is different and what each person wants from a PA will vary. How much direct responsibility for managing a service also varies from person to person.

This is an outline of services and possible options for Personal Assistant Services and the HSE/Cork CIL Assisted Living Personal Assistant Services (ALA-PA Service). We hope you find it useful

#### **HSE Funded Personal Assistant [PA] Services**

The Cork CIL ALS-PA Service is a HSE funded service. It is part of HSE Disability Services. ALS supports are often part of a range of community support services along with Home Support Services [formerly Home Help].

Cork CIL<sup>1</sup> is a HSE funded not-for-profit organisation Disability Organisation and we are charged with providing ALS services in the South Lee area of Cork. Our PA Services are fully funded by the HSE. This funding has been fixed for the last number of years but despite this new service users are still needing support and are still being referred for a service, therefore a prioritised waiting list is operated.

#### **Who Can Apply?**

**To be eligible for ALS services applicants must have**

- Primary physical / sensory disability
- Living in CHO 4 [providers North Lee, North Cork, West Cork, [IWA], South Lee [Cork CIL]
- Under 65 years at the time-of-service commencing

#### **Who can make a referral ?**

The local Public Health Nurse (PHN) is normally the person who refers applicants after s/he has checked the applicants eligibility and assessed their needs. Completed applications are considered at a Local Prioritisation Committee (LPC). This team is made up of Cork CIL Manager, the HSE Disability Manager, the HSE Home Support Manager and an Assistant Director of Public Health Nursing. The group meets every 6-8 weeks. If the application meets the criteria for services and the supports needed can be safely provided by Cork CIL applicants will be offered a place on the waiting list.

We believe that it is vital that each applicant fully understands their referral and consent to this. An ALS Service is not the service to refer a new service user to if an emergency response is required. It is important that all applicants understand that if their application is successful a prioritised waiting list operates.

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<sup>1</sup> Cork CIL is a Non-Acute/Community Disability Agency being provided with funding under Section 39 of the Health Act, 2004.



## Assisted Living Supports

### Social Inclusion (SI)

Most referrals to Cork CIL are for community based social inclusion supports. These supports may be part of a range of community supports provided by the HSE directly such as Home Support (Home Help), or by other agencies such as Day or Respite Services.

The number of Social Inclusion hours will in all likelihood be small **3 to 4 hours a week**. It often makes sense to start with a small number of hours so that a new Service User can get used to working with a PA, build up trust and see if they like the supports and find out first hand if it is useful for them. If a person's needs change then we will work with them and advocate for increased hours or different supports if needed.

### What Does Social Inclusion (SI) Support Mean ?

It means different things to different people some people like to use their social inclusion(SI) hours to shop, go for coffee, get out to the library, a gallery or the cinema. Some people use their SI support to get help with things such as arranging appointments on line or on the phone, getting into the bank or post office or help with on line shopping. Others have asked the PA to help them gain confidence in using public transport or perhaps help them make meals or pursue a hobby at home. Sometimes it's just nice to meet and have a chat or go for a walk.

### Therapy Programmes

Requests for support with therapy programmes will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The community therapist must be willing to prescribe a written therapy programme and instruct the PA's.

### Support at Appointments

PA's may occasionally accompany a service user that they are actively working with. This usually requires the service user to plan their appointment time with their PA. However, Cork CIL **cannot routinely** accept applications with a primary objective to accompany applicants to hospital or other appointments.

If applicants are looking for this type of support, they are requested to consider the **Cork CIL Travel Club** to support attendance at appointments.

### Can the PA give me a lift in their car?

Cork CIL PA's **do not** routinely take Service Users in their car. If this is done it is by negotiation with Cork CIL, the PA and in line with **Cork CIL Driving for Work Policy**. Increasing insurance costs are making this less common. Other agencies do not support this role. However you can become a member of the **Cork CIL Travel Club** that offers good value wheelchair accessible transport to its members. Check out our website [www.corkcil.ie](http://www.corkcil.ie)

### Domestic & Housekeeping

Application solely for domestic and housekeeping supports are not routinely considered

### Personal Care

If the new referral is for personal care supports it is unlikely that the applicant can wait for the ALS services and the application will be referred back to PHN to explore Home Support Services or an Enhanced Home Care Application to respond to this priority need.



**What Next ?**

If you decide that you do want an ALS PA Services and you have not yet applied contact your Public Health Nurse who can start the process. If you do not have a Public Health Nurse contact your local Health Centre or GP Practice who should be able to advise you

If you have already been referred and wish to be included in the waiting list please return your consent form to us. This will be attached to your letter from the LPC

We are unable to say how quickly a service will be provide but as resources become available and we can offer take people off the waiting list we will contact you. We will check that your circumstances have not changed, we will discuss with you the sort of supports you are looking for, we will then try our best to get a PA at a time that best suits you, but this may not always be possible in which case we may only be able to offer times where we have availability

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Other queries email [pat.beirne@corkci.ie](mailto:pat.beirne@corkci.ie)