**Changes to Together Advocacy activity during the coronavirus outbreak**

In light of the advice presented by the government yesterday, we want to update you on our current working arrangements.

The government has advised that all staff who are able to do so should work from home until further notice. Together Advocacy Hubs and IMCA Service will abide by this advice and are now working from home from 17 March 2020.

Together Advocacy has systems and support in place for all staff to work from home and can access all their emails and files to work as per usual from home.

We are in the process of cancelling all unnecessary journeys, shared training events and non-essential meetings until further notice.

Following Public Health and Together Management advice we had already been reviewing our activity in response to the coronavirus outbreak, including face to face case work that our Advocates have planned over the next 4 weeks.

* Involves service visits with people who could be considered vulnerable
* Might place additional burdens on NHS or social care services

Our staff are trained and aware of ways to represent their client within our Statutory Advocacy Framework. We will continue to raise awareness of the rights of the individual who is referred to our service. We will continue to receive new referrals, allocate cases to a qualified Advocate and monitor the delivery of case work in line with our Statutory duty and within the principles of the Advocacy Charter. The advocates will not delay any decisions required by Health and Social Care practitioners.

We will keep reviewing the situation and will keep you informed as the position becomes clearer. Please don’t hesitate to contact myself if you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the above by emailing Tracy-moss@together-uk.org 07834686553

Please continue to access the NHS England advice around coronavirus at [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/), to make sure you know how to protect yourself, your family, and our wider community.