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Supporting Scotland's social care workers

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Plans for death in service cover and enhancements to statutory sick pay.

Extra financial support will be given to social care workers in Scotland during the Coronavirus emergency, the Health Secretary Jeane Freeman has announced.

The Scottish Government has stepped in to provide additional funding to ensure all social care workers receive enhanced sick pay where they have received a positive COVID-19 test.

Where any social care worker dies without death in service cover in their contracted pension arrangements, the Scottish Government also plans to provide a one-off payment of £60,000 to a named survivor.

The Health Secretary said:

“Social Care staff provide a critical and valuable service, never more apparent than during this emergency period.

“While some employers offer employment contracts closer to the Scottish Government’s fair work principles, it is clear that others do not. In recognition of the current exceptional circumstances and in order to ensure that social care workers are given the urgent support they deserve, we will develop a Scottish Government funded scheme for care workers in respect of sick pay and death in service benefits.

“These fair work issues and how they are realised in commissioning contracts will require to be addressed but, in the current circumstances, my focus now is on fairness for the care workers affected.

“We will continue to work with local government, social care providers and trades unions on further details of the plans over the course of next week.”

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