

## MP Ellie Reeves



I hope you are well and keeping safe and I am sure you have been keeping up to date with developments on the Coronavirus and can appreciate that this is a fast-moving situation.

So far, I have tabled numerous Parliamentary questions to get answers to the range of concerns I have. They include questions on what the Government is doing to increase the number of ventilators and ICU capacity, when testing for Covid-19 will be made available for NHS front-line staff and members of the general public and whether the Government will increase statutory sick pay to the European average.

I have written to the Business Secretary to ask for guidance on what support businesses will be receiving from the Government and I have also written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to ensure full sick pay and lost earnings protections are extended to all workers (including the self-employed) and that renters are not threatened with debt, insecurity and homelessness. I am also a signatory to a letter to the

Chancellor calling for an adequate minimum level of support for people moving onto Universal Credit.

In addition to this I have contacted Lewisham & Bromley Councils to find out what actions they are taking, especially to protect people with underlying health conditions, older people isolating, the homeless, refugees, those with no recourse to public funds, those accessing social care and families in crowded emergency/temporary accommodation.

I have also contacted many of our local organisations and charities to find out about what efforts are being made in the community and to help coordinate the community response. I know many of you will want to know what you can do to help our community. So far, I have received the following requests:

### **Bromley Living Well:**

Are accepting donations and looking for volunteers to help deliver food to vulnerable people and maintain contact with these people by phone as well as help with their Friday lunches/foodbank, you can apply via their website: <https://livingwell.life/>

### **Lewisham Food Bank:**

Are looking for reserve volunteers to help with the foodbank, please contact: [info@lewisham.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@lewisham.foodbank.org.uk)

And are accepting food and monetary donations more info on their website: <https://lewisham.foodbank.org.uk>

### **Lewisham Council:**

Are in the process of creating a web page to co-ordinate volunteer response, in the meantime keep up to date here: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/coronavirus-covid-19>

### **Bromley Council:**

Have a page on how to volunteer here: [https://www.bromley.gov.uk/press/article/1594/volunteering\\_to\\_help\\_those\\_facing\\_self-isolation\\_in\\_the\\_fight\\_against\\_covid-19](https://www.bromley.gov.uk/press/article/1594/volunteering_to_help_those_facing_self-isolation_in_the_fight_against_covid-19)

Going forward if we as a community remain calm, work together to help those who are most vulnerable and follow the up to date health guidance I am confident that we will be able to get through this challenging period.

If you have any concerns or if there is anything you feel I could do to assist you, please do not hesitate to let me know and I or a member of my team will do what we can to help. Following the advice on social distancing my office is closed but my team is working as normally as possible from home and we can be contacted at [ellie.reeves.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ellie.reeves.mp@parliament.uk) and 020 7219 2668.