

NEWS & VIEWS



Spring Edition 2021



Have your PAs had their first COVID Vaccination?



Are you...



A Knowsley resident?



In a priority group?



Not yet had the COVID vaccine?

Then call Knowsley CCG on 0151 244 4121 who will book an appointment for you.

The COVID vaccination programme in Knowsley is continuing to offer appointments to residents in a number of priority groups.

This includes all residents over 65 years, residents aged 16-65 in an at-risk group, those who work in a health and social care role (e.g. PAs), care home residents and staff and those who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

As front line health and social care workers, your PAs are in the priority group and should have had their vaccination. If not, they should book their appointment now by calling Knowsley CCG on **0151 244 4121**.

Using Direct Payments During The Coronavirus Pandemic



You may have been unable to use your direct payments in the normal way during COVID-19, for example, because community groups have closed or because you didn't want your PA to come into your home while you were shielding.

Most services are now being re-opened, and employees are being encouraged to return to work if it's safe and appropriate. Weekly testing is now available for PAs (see Page 2 for more information) and suitable levels of PPE should be available to you.

As we emerge from lockdown and restrictions are eased, you may find you need to alter the way you are using your direct payments but please make sure any changes or adaptations to your support plan are legal, affordable and effective in meeting your outcomes. Please also do make sure you tell us about any changes you are making as these may affect the payroll or managed accounts services we provide. Contact us by email at managedaccounts@kdc.org.uk or yourpayroll@kdc.org.uk or call us on 0151 480 8873 to talk to a member of the team.

You can keep up to date with all the latest news and information via our website. **Visit us at**

www.kdc.org.uk.

Follow us on twitter.

Like us on Facebook.

Meet the team...

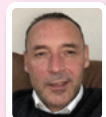


0151 480 8873



Andy Gilbert
Service Manager

andy.gilbert@kdc.org.uk



Mike Atkinson
Direct Payments Officer

mike.atkinson@kdc.org.uk



Colette Salt
Direct Payments Officer

colette.salt@kdc.org.uk



Simone Stein
Customer Finance Officer

simone.stein@kdc.org.uk



Jim McDonald
Direct Payments Co-ordinator

jim.mcdonald@kdc.org.uk

The team here at KDC continues to be fully available to you throughout the pandemic over the phone and by email. We are looking forward to resuming home visits and providing face-to-face support as soon as the restrictions are lifted. In the meantime, do try and join our support group meeting on 31 March over Zoom – more information on page 3.



ILG Support

Your Proactive Employment Advice Service

If you have your insurance with Mark Bates Limited (Premier Care), you will now be able to benefit from their new 'ILG Support Service', introduced from January.

The Independent Living Group (ILG) was set up to support individual employers and promote independent living.

As well as a legal and employment helpline, you and your PAs can access a range of learning and training through the ILG Academy. The ILG Academy brings together a bespoke suite of e-learning courses and online tutorials to help you with your duties as an employer and improve your PA's skills.

Employment Advice On Tap

Proactive employment support for individual employers.

From contracts of employment to staff management enquiries and everything in between. We'll make sure you're not drowning in paperwork and get the support you need to thrive.

Direct Payment recipients, Personal Health Budget users and self-funders will find everything they need 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in whatever way is easiest for you.

01476 512192
advice@ilgsupport.com

For more information, visit: www.ilgacademy.com or email: support@independentlivinggroup.com

Challenging and changing the future of social care - how you can get involved

#socialcarefuture is a growing movement of people across the UK with a shared commitment to bring about major positive change in what is currently called 'Social Care'.

We all want to live in the place we can call home with the people and things that we love, in communities where we look out for one another, doing things that matter to us.

That's the social care future we seek. #socialcarefuture

socialcarefuture.blog

#socialcarefuture says: "It's not all about people just talking together - although that is important - it is about taking action to challenge and change the present and close the gap between the positive ambition of the Care Act 2014 and the reality on the ground. It's a vision which will require significant change in what social care does and how it works, moving away from institutional practices by shifting power to people and communities. But it is a vision we already see inspiring great new approaches all around us."

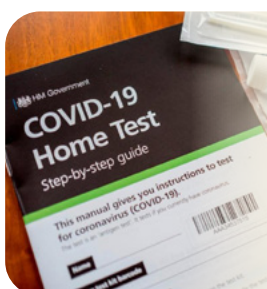
To find out more search 'Social Care Futures'. Follow on Facebook or Twitter @socfuture.

People with lived experience, families, professionals, managers, support providers, user-led organisations, politicians, commissioners, community groups and others are working together in a variety of ways to pursue the shared vision above.

Weekly COVID testing for all PAs

NHS Test and Trace is making weekly COVID-19 testing available to PAs working in adult social care in England. PAs will be responsible for ordering test kits every 28 days – or an employer can order test kits for their personal assistant.

Four tests are delivered for each PA to their selected delivery address for a 28-day testing cycle. Every 7 days a personal assistant should take a test, register it online, and return it by post. PAs will receive their results in 48 hours by email and text message (SMS). To order the 4-weekly test kits go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test



263a Tarbock Road, Huyton, Merseyside L36 0SD
Email: info@kdc.org.uk Web: www.kdc.org.uk

Join us for the next Direct Payments Support Group virtual meet up!

You are warmly invited to join us by Zoom for our next Direct Payments Support Group meeting on Wednesday 31 March 11.00 am.

We are delighted to be joined by two guest speakers. Debbie Bennett, Social Prescribing Link Worker from One-Knowsley will be talking to us about what Social Prescribing is, how it works locally in Knowsley and how it can help you. Myles Evans from Mark Bates Limited (Premier Care) will be talking about the new ILG support service - a new 'one-stop shop' for people who employ PAs.

Mike Atkinson, our new Direct Payments Officer will be talking about supporting you to recruit PAs and our plans to launch a new on-line facility and, as always, there will be lots of opportunity for people to chat together, share experiences and offer support.

We are still not able to offer any cake or biscuits but hopefully it will not be much longer before we can meet together again in person.

Email andy.gilbert@kdc.org.uk for the Zoom link or simply log onto your Zoom account (it's free) and join the meeting. The Zoom Meeting ID is 964 3607 0681. Passcode 939886



Direct Payments Conference News



The Government's 'road map' for getting back to normal means that we should be able to start planning the next conference to take place in July this year.



We hope to make it a bumper session, bringing people who use direct payments, families, PAs, carers and professionals together to build on the good work already started and make things better for people in Knowsley.

If you're interested in getting involved as part of a small planning group for this important event and can spare a couple of hours, please contact Andy Gilbert on 0151 480 8873 or at andy.gilbert@kdc.org.uk.

Finding PA's

One of our key aims here at KDC is to make it as easy as possible for people using direct payments to employ their own personal care assistants (PAs).

Thanks to funding from Knowsley Council, we are embarking on a major project to redesign the PA-finder website and develop a mobile app which will help people recruit good PAs - whether for permanent work or temporary cover for holidays and emergencies.

We need your help...

Please look out for our email link and fill in a very short questionnaire about your views. And if you want to volunteer your time and experience to be part of the project working group, please contact Mike Atkinson on 0151 480 8873 or email mike.atkinson@kdc.org.uk.



PA Holidays and Changes Due to COVID

It is important that your PAs have the opportunity to take a break and use their paid holiday allowance (which is equivalent to 5.6 weeks of their normal hours worked) each year. You can see how much leave your PA is entitled to by looking at their payslip, or refer to the notice provided with this month's payroll reports.

Due to Coronavirus some PAs haven't been able to take their holidays, so for this year only, PAs will be permitted to carry over up to 4 weeks unspent annual leave and to use over the next two years. It is important that all annual leave carried over from this year is used by the end of March 2023.



**YOUR
PAYROLL**
0151 949 5442
yourpayroll@kdc.org.uk

Meet the team...



Jan Fish
Service Manager



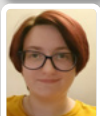
Sandra Windsor
Payroll Administrator



Terry Roberts
Payroll Administrator



Beverley Seddon
Payroll Administrator



Aimee Neeves
Payroll Administrator
(Apprentice)



Laura Sulce
Finance Assistant



New Portal for Payslips

The new payslip portal was introduced last month and we've had some really positive feedback with PAs finding it simple and easy to use.

PAs can log on securely, anytime, anywhere, to access this month's pay slip as well as previous months, going forward – which will be available all in one place - even if a PA works for more than one employer. In addition, we will be distributing the year-end P60s using the portal.

National Minimum Wage Increase



The minimum wage hourly rate will increase from £8.72 to £8.91 from 1st April 2021.

We will make sure this is automatically calculated in your PA's wages for hours worked from 1st April, so you need not take any further action. The rate of the Direct Payments you receive from the Local Authority will be adjusted to make sure your care package is funded appropriately.

Annual Leave for PAs

A reminder to tell us about when your PAs take their annual leave as this helps us to keep track of the remaining allowance your PA has at any time during the year.

The new annual leave year starts 1st April so we will be starting afresh with an allowance based on

the average hours of the previous 12 months (or total time worked if your PA hasn't been with you for 12 months) plus any additional hours carried over as a result of COVID.

You can see how much leave your PA is entitled to by looking at their payslip, or refer to the notice provided with this month's payroll reports.

Here's a note of the next few payroll dates – it's really important to make sure you get your changes in on time!

For customers who live in Knowsley

| Last date for changes | Payslips out | Wages pay date |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1 March | 10 March | 15 March |
| 29 March | 7 April | 12 April |
| 26 April | 5 May | 10 May |
| 24 May | 2 June | 7 June |
| 21 June | 30 June | 5 July |
| 19 July | 28 July | 2 August |

For customers who live in Liverpool

| Last date for changes | Payslips out | Wages pay date |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 8 March | 17 March | 22 March |
| 5 April | 14 April | 19 April |
| 3 May | 12 May | 17 May |
| 31 May | 9 June | 14 June |
| 28 June | 7 July | 12 July |
| 26 July | 4 August | 9 August |