

NEWS & VIEWS



AUTUMN EDITION 2012



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Knowsley celebrates people with disability

Monday 3 December is the International Day of People with Disability and this year's main theme is 'Removing barriers to create an inclusive and accessible society for all'.

To recognise and celebrate achievements by and in support of disabled people overcoming barriers, Knowsley is holding an awards evening at the Suites Hotel Kirkby on Monday 3 December.

There will be a number of awards presented on the evening, which has been sponsored by Knowsley MBC, and KPAC. **KDC is pleased to announce that we have been nominated for the Organisation of the Year Award.** This is awarded to a business or voluntary and community group that has made a significant contribution to improving life for people with disability in the Knowsley community.

Other people connected to KDC who have been nominated for an award are:



KDC Volunteer Advocacy Team - Volunteer of the Year Award.

Awarded to someone who gives freely and unselfishly of their time to help people with disability in Knowsley



Tom Baker

Lifelong Achievement Award

Awarded to recognise a person who has advanced the rights of people with disability over a prolonged period of time.



Lisa Simpson

Knowsley Entrepreneur of the Year Award

This award will celebrate the achievements of a Knowsley entrepreneur with disability.

Winners to be announced on the night so wish us luck!



Is your insurance up to date? A quick reminder for those of you who may not have up to date insurance cover in place. As an employer, it is essential that you have a current policy. If you do not, please give us a call and we will sort it out for you.

All at KDC send you their best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Meet the Team

The KDC Direct Payments Team is here to help. We have a wealth of knowledge and experience so please feel free to contact us for advice and information about any aspect of the scheme.

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Direct Payments

Here's a list of payment dates for your Direct Payments for the next few months

Date paid into bank	Period covered
26/11/12	26/11/12 to 23/12/12
24/12/12	24/12/12 to 20/01/13
21/01/13	21/01/13 to 17/02/13
18/02/13	18/02/13 to 17/03/13



Personal independence Payment (PIP)

- Replaces DLA for claimants of working age (16-64) even if they have an indefinite or lifetime award
- Applies to all new claims from April 2013
- All existing DLA claimants will be reassessed at some point between October 2013 and Spring 2016 with people due for review being looked at first and 30,000 claimants across the country being randomly selected for reassessment
- Assessments for PIP will be 'face to face' by health professionals such as nurses, GPs, physiotherapists, occupational therapists etc. and ATOS has the contract to coordinate the assessments. It is estimated that 50% of assessments for PIP will take place at home
- Claimants must have needed help for at least 3 months and be likely to need help for at least 9 months and PIP awards will be made for fixed periods depending on the claimants condition and will be reviewed regularly
- There will be two components of PIP – Daily Living Needs and Mobility, both with standard and enhanced rates
- PIP will act as a 'passport' to other benefits such as Carers Allowance and the Motability scheme (enhanced mobility component only)
- Rates at which PIP will be paid are not yet confirmed but the Government will be 'locking down' i.e. signing off the final rules by the end of November 2012
- The local DWP offices have promised help for people who have additional support needs and KDC will act as a referral point for contacting their advisers to arrange home visits

Universal Credit (UC)

- Sits at the heart of the Welfare Reform Act 2012
- UC aims to help people move into and progress in work while providing support for those who need it
- Replaces income-based Jobseekers and Employment and Support Allowance (JSA and ESA), Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and Housing Benefit.
- Will be introduced from April 2013 for all new claims from unemployed
- The phased work to transfer all existing claimants to UC will commence in April 2014
- By the end of 2017 the existing benefits will be phased out and all claimants will be on UC
- Final regulations still to be laid before Parliament



We have promised to keep you up to date with the many changes which may affect your benefits and household income. Here is a brief summary.

Benefit Cap

- From April 2013 a cap on the amount of benefit a household may receive so that these are in line with average weekly earnings
- The total maximum weekly benefits payable for a couple and lone parent households will be capped at £500
- For single households the cap will be £350 per week
- Excludes those entitled to Working Tax Credit and all households in which somebody, including a child, is receiving DLA, Attendance Allowance, PIP, Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, the support component of Employment Support Allowance and war widows and widowers.

Social Fund

- From 1 April 2013 Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for general living expenses will be abolished
- Local Authorities will administer these funds instead but the amount of money made available by the Government will be 30% less than the current budget
- Knowsley Council will be developing a scheme for this
- Loans to support people in times of adversity will remain with the DWP

Housing Benefit

- From April 2013 people who rent from a social sector landlord e.g. KHT will be subject to new rules restricting the size of accommodation they can receive Housing Benefit for
- Benefit will be based on the number of people in the household versus the number of bedrooms in the house
- If it is decided that you have more bedrooms than are necessary your housing benefit will be reduced by 14% if you have one extra bedroom and 25% if you have 2 or more extra bedrooms
- The change does not affect Housing Benefit for those who rent from a private landlord.

Council Tax Support

- From April 2013 there will be no standard Council Tax allowance system for UK residents
- Instead, each local authority will be establishing its own local scheme
- It is expected that everybody under pension age who currently receives Council Tax Benefit will be affected by this change and will have to pay something towards their Council Tax bill from April 2013.
- Knowsley proposes to calculate Council Tax Support based on a maximum of 80% of your Council Tax bill. For example, if your Council Tax bill is £1,000 per year, support will only be calculated on £800 so you will have to pay at least £200 per year towards your Council Tax.
- The Knowsley scheme also proposes to remove the Second Adult Rebate and backdating of Council Tax. In addition, support for working age people will be limited to a maximum of three months
- More information will be published once the public consultation is completed and the scheme is finalised.

Independent Living Fund (ILF)

- ILF will be closed in 2015
- Funds will be transferred to local authorities for administration locally
- Consultation has taken place on the impact of this and how the closure could be managed with minimum disruption - results not yet announced

For more information log onto www.dwp.gov.uk. If you are worried about how any of these changes will affect you there are lots of places to go to for help. Here are some useful contact numbers:

Merseyside Welfare Rights	0844 848 7700
Huyton Advice Centre	0151 489 7313
Kirkby Unemployment Centre	0151 548 0001
Knowsley Carers Centre	0151 549 1412
Citizens Advice Bureau	0845 122 1300
Benefits Advice Line	0800 882 200

Payroll Points



New Rules for HM Revenue & Customs

In April 2013, HMRC are introducing 'Real Time Information (RTI)' rules which means that all employers will be expected to send them an analysis of their employees' gross and net pay together with deductions for tax and national insurance at the time that the wages are paid. This is creating a lot of problems for small employers like yourself but we would like to reassure you that your KDC Payroll Service will take care of all your responsibilities for RTI - with no extra charge. **Please ignore any letters you may receive from HMRC about this.**

A better way to pay?

Every three months we write to you asking for a cheque to pay tax and national insurance contributions due, which we then send on to HMRC. Did you know that you could save time and money by logging onto the HMRC website and paying what is due yourself? If you would like to change the way you pay, contact Joanne or Sandra on 949 5442 and they will give you the information you need.



Payroll dates for your diary

Payslip sent out	Payment date	Period worked
28/11/12	03/12/12	05/11/12 to 02/12/12
18/12/12	31/12/12	03/12/12 to 30/12/12
23/01/13	28/01/13	31/12/12 to 27/01/13
19/02/13	25/02/13	28/01/13 to 24/02/13

Please note: December payslips will be sent out a week earlier than usual

PLEASED TO MEET YOU

As a parent of a young adult with severe learning difficulties, I had been dreading the transition from children's services to adult's services and the thought of what my son would do when he left school sent shivers down my spine. Going through transition is difficult. Everything changes when your child turns 18; cognitively they are still a young child, but the systems sees them as an adult. My husband and I both work full-time so Matthew needed a suitable place for 5 days a week. I was anxious and felt isolated and helpless but eventually I was guided through the process with the help of an excellent social worker.



I had never been interested in direct payments as I thought it would be more hassle to cope with, our social worker introduced me to Tom from KDC. Tom explained all about how direct payments was the best way for me and my son as it would give us more choice.

For a small amount of money, paid from the direct payments, KDC take on the budget, through their Managed Accounts service, and manage it for me. Tom also directed me to A.C.E. an activity group that could offer a 5-day placement for Matthew. He had some 'taster' sessions there and really enjoyed it. As they say, the rest is history.

I am able to carry on working full-time and I have a happy young adult - something I didn't think was possible 12 months ago. Plus no hassle of budgets!

Support for you

Your Peer Support Group continues to meet, to look at all aspects of Direct Payments. At the last session, we talked about the process for getting money for respite and short breaks, how to get extra money for your heating bills this winter (in addition to cold weather payments) and what we're doing to support people through the direct payments audit inspections. The next meeting is at 1pm on Wednesday 12 December in the Caldwell Centre, Tarbock Road, Huyton and you are all welcome to come along for a cup of tea and a festive mince pie! Ring Johanne on 480 4090 to confirm.

