

NEWS & VIEWS



SUMMER EDITION 2015



Welcome to all our new readers



Joyce Greaves, CEO/Manager

A warm welcome to our new customers who have recently taken up Direct Payments from Knowsley Council, particularly those of you who have transferred from the Independent Living Fund.

Published every three months, our Newsletter is for all users of Knowsley's Direct Payments. We hope you find the contents interesting and informative.

We publish the newsletters on our website where you will find links to all the back-issues. Go to

www.kdc.org.uk and click on the pink 'Direct Payments' button.

**DIRECT
PAYMENTS**

Please feel free to contact me, Joyce Greaves on **480 4090** to share your views and comments and ideas for future issues. In the meantime, I hope to meet you soon at one of our support group meetings (see Page 3) or a future workshop/information session.

Annual Summer Tea Party



Thanks go to all our volunteers and supporters who turned out for our 'Summer' Tea Party last month. Despite the cold and windy weather, we raised more than £600 on the day.

The event marked National Learning Disability Week and the money raised is being used to

help local people with learning disabilities gain skills and experience to speak up and have a say about what's important in their lives.

Congratulations to all those who won prizes in our raffles and tombola and sincere thanks go out to the people and local businesses who donated so generously.

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.



Make us a friend on Facebook.

Meet the Team

The KDC Direct Payments Team has a wealth of knowledge and experience and is always on hand with help and information as well as the answers to any questions you might have.

Andy Gilbert

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Colette Salt

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Business Support - KMBC
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For names and contact details of your Payroll Team - see back page.



This month, we welcomed Michelle Allan as a permanent member of staff.

Previously assisting the team as a volunteer administrator, Michelle was invited to apply for the new part-time Customer Finance Assistant role and following a successful interview, she joined the team on 21 July



Knowsley Information Service

Knowsley Council launches new information site

You can now get help about a wide range of subjects by logging onto a brand new website: www.knowsleyinfo.co.uk

The site is easy to use and offers useful information and links to services (including KDC) for people living in Knowsley. Take a look and let us know what you think.



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Volunteer of the Year!



Debbie Harry (pictured right) is a volunteer advocate with KDC and we were delighted that she has been recognised during national Volunteer Week in June.

Debbie volunteers with **TALK** (Talk and Listen Knowsley)

which helps people with disabilities to have their say and be listened to. Debbie's hard work, patience and persistence has helped a young, severely disabled woman to move out of residential care and live independently in her own home.



A very deserving winner of the KCVS Volunteer of the Year Award!



Feedback from our recent workshop delivered by family law experts tells us that more and more people are beginning to think

about making arrangements for their family after they have gone.

Lawyers from Birchall Blackburn Law, explained the importance of making a will, irrespective of your financial situation. The session also included how the right form of Trust can protect your loved ones for the rest of their lives and we found out how putting in place Lasting Powers of Attorney can help when it comes to making decisions about care and treatment. A clear message was that making arrangements sooner rather than later can make it so much easier and give you peace of mind.

We will be running another session next year but in the meantime, you can contact **Cathy** or **Rosemary** at **Birchall Blackburn Law on 0800 614 722.**



●●●●●● **Support** for you...



Care Charges Reviews

Many of our customers have been informed by the Council that the contributions they have to pay towards their care and support will increase.

The Council's Fairer Charging policy sets out the right for the financial assessment team to review a person's financial circumstances to ensure that the charges are appropriate. If you have received a letter telling you about the new amount you must pay, you must make

sure you arrange to change the regular payments into your direct payments bank account.

If you disagree with your new financial assessment, first of all make sure you get a written breakdown of how the charge has been calculated. Use this to check that all of your eligible expenditure has been taken into account. If you still disagree, contact us for a copy of the policy and information leaflet as well as guidance on how to make an appeal.

A reminder about dates for Direct Payments support groups

Direct Payments Peer Support Groups meet regularly to swap stories, share experiences and generally find ways to improve things for people using Direct Payments. The meetings are facilitated by KDC but are very much led by the members.

Here are the details of the next meetings

*Wednesday 12 August 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm
North Huyton Resource Centre,
Woolfall Heath Avenue, L36 3TN*

*Wednesday 9 September 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm
The Caldwell Centre,
Tarbock Road, Huyton, L36 0SD*

automatic enrolment

KDC is busy gearing up to ensure we can support you to manage your new responsibilities for pensions.

Changes in the law mean that all employers (including people who have their own PA) must provide and pay into a pension scheme for certain staff.

KDC hosted an information session in May which was well received and we are planning another session in November. Look out for details of this in our Autumn issue as well as information with your pay slips. In the meantime, contact us on **480 4090** if you have any queries.

Free Training

A reminder that KDC has an agreement with Knowsley Council which allows you, your PA, carers and family members to access a range of learning and development workshops.

You will find a leaflet with this Newsletter giving information about the workshops and courses on offer as well as how to book.

Remember, your Direct Payment includes money to cover the cost of cover when your PA goes on training.

Contact us on **480 8873**



