

NEWS & VIEWS



AUTUMN EDITION 2014



HELP FOR YOUR REVIEW

We know that many of you will be concerned and anxious about the process for care and support packages being reviewed - particularly in the light of the cuts to the Council's spending plans.

Knowsley Council has a duty to revisit and reassess the needs of people who they provide support for, including people receiving Direct Payments, at least once every 12 months. The Council is making huge efforts to make sure that everyone has their annual review this year so it is important that you are ready.

KDC is hosting a special workshop aimed at giving you the tools and information you need to help you prepare and know what to expect from your review - what your support plan should look like and how your personal budget is explained.



The workshop is on **Friday 21 November** at the **Caldwell Centre, Tarbock Road, Huyton** from **10am to 1pm**.

To book a place, please call Johanne Ross on 0151 480 4090.

You can also check out our FACT Sheet 'What can I expect from my review'. Visit our website at www.kdc.org.uk and click on 'Direct Payments' or simply give us a call and we'll send one out to you.

Protect yourself and your family from flu...

People in Knowsley at risk from the complications of flu are being urged to take up the offer of a free flu jab.

Knowsley Council is appealing to all vulnerable groups to protect themselves this winter by getting vaccinated. This includes people over 65, pregnant women, and those with underlying health problems.

Importantly, if you are the main carer of an older or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if you fall ill you should protect yourself by getting vaccinated.

The flu vaccine changes every year to fight the latest strains of flu, so even if you had a vaccination last winter you need another one this year to stay safe.

Don't wait until there is a flu outbreak this winter: contact your GP practice now to get your seasonal flu jab early.



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

Independent Living Coordinator
andy.gilbert@kdc.org.uk
Tel: 0151 480 8873



Colette Salt

Independent Living Coordinator
colette.salt@kdc.org.uk
Tel: 0151 480 8873



Simone Stein

Customer Finance Officer
simone.stein@kdc.org.uk
Tel: 0151 480 8873



John Rigby

Payroll Assistant
john.rigby@kdc.org.uk
Tel: 0151 949 5442



Joanne Morris

Payroll Officer
joanne.morris@kdc.org.uk
Tel: 0151 949 5442



Sandra Windsor

Payroll Coordinator
sandra.windsor@kdc.org.uk
Tel: 0151 949 5442



Martin Neary

Business Support - KMBC
martin.neary@kdc.org.uk
Tel: 0151 480 8873



Joyce Greaves

Manager
joyce.greaves@kdc.org.uk
Tel: 0151 480 4090



In September we welcomed Simone Stein on board who has joined the Direct Payments team as Customer Finance Officer. Simone will be looking after people who use our managed accounts service and has brought a wealth of knowledge and skills to help us cope with the growing demand. Simone has personal experience of direct payments and has been volunteering at the Sefton Carers Centre.



Amongst her many hobbies, is breeding Old English Sheepdogs and she's pictured here with Shaun and Barbie and their 'baby', Sindy.

Personal Health Budgets Did you know?



From April 2014, everyone receiving NHS Continuing Healthcare has the right to ask for a Personal Health Budget, including a direct payment. From 1 October this group of people now have 'right to have' a Personal Health Budget.

What is a Personal Health Budget?

A Personal Health Budget is an amount of money to support the identified healthcare and wellbeing needs of an individual, which is planned and agreed between the individual, or their representative, and the Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

At the centre of a Personal Health Budget is the care and support plan. This plan helps people to identify their health and wellbeing goals, together with their local NHS team, and set out how the budget will be spent to enable them to reach their goals and keep healthy and safe.

How can a Personal Health Budget be paid?

Once a care and support plan has been agreed, the money in a Personal Health Budget can be managed in a number of different ways, for example a Direct Payment, a Managed Account and a notional budget held by the NHS team who will arrange the agreed care and support.

Interested?

For more information about Personal Health Budgets, contact Andy Gilbert at KDC on 0151 480 8873. Andy can talk to you over the telephone, send you information by post, email or come out and visit you for further discussion. You can visit our website and find the link to Personal Health Budgets on our homepage.



263a Tarbock Road, Huyton, Merseyside L36 0SD

Tel: 0151 480 8873

Email: andy.gilbert@kdc.org.uk Web: www.kdc.org.uk



●●●●● Support for you...



Our Peer Support Groups are there for people like you who want to make the most of their Direct Payments. We meet in Huyton and Kirkby approximately every 6 weeks to share views and experiences, offer each other tips and advice and get up to date information about services and support available.

Making plans for after you've gone...

Members of the Peer Support Group have been looking at ways in which they can plan for the future of their loved ones and because everyone's circumstances are different there is no 'one size fits all' solution. One thing we are agreed on is the importance of getting professional advice. Finding the right solicitor is not straightforward though, as one family found.

Ken and Rose have a disabled daughter and want to make provision for her – as well as her sister – for when they have gone.

They have spoken to four different firms of legal advisers and been given different information with quotes for the work ranging between £1,400 and £3,800! With the help of EAD Solicitors in Liverpool (tel: 0151 735 1000), they have finally managed to organise their wills, and put in place Lasting Power of Attorney arrangements for their daughter's financial affairs as well as her health and wellbeing.

KDC cannot recommend solicitors but Neurosupport in Liverpool has some specialist firms on their legal panel which could help:

- Birchall Blackburn Law (0800 988 1548);**
- Canter Levin & Berg (0151 239 1180);**
- Fentons (0800 988 1548);**
- GLP (0161 764 1818);**
- Panone (0800 0384 384)**
- Slater & Gordon (0151 257 6004).**

In addition, KDC has worked with **ASP Legal (01978 761483)** who specialise in Disabled Discretionary Trusts and one of our clients uses **Peter Edwards Law (0151 632 6699).**



One of the hot topics this summer has been the difficulties for people with disabilities and long term medical conditions getting hold of travel insurance at reasonable rates. We've heard that Virgin and Age Concern offer good deals. Does anyone know of any other providers?

Why not come along to the next meeting near you and share your views?

- **Wednesday 12 November**
at The Caldwell Centre, Tarbock Road, Huyton
L36 0SD (1pm to 3pm)
- **Tuesday 2 December at**
Changing Lives, 101-105
Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby
L32 8SA (1pm to 3pm)



Remember - Personal Assistants can get FREE training

We have many people who are vulnerable living in Knowsley, and it is up to all of us to be a good friend / neighbour and offer whatever help we can.

To help us all with this, there is **free** training for everyone who receives a Direct Payment and for **all Personal Assistants**. The **'Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults and Children Alerters Awareness'** course runs over half a day and the next sessions are in Huyton on Thursday 5 February starting at 9.30am or 1.30pm.

To book a place, phone Dot Murphy on 0151 443 2085 or send an email to the halewoodcentre@knowsley.gov.uk

If you are concerned that someone is at risk of abuse or neglect it is important to alert Social Services. Call the Knowsley Access Team on 0151 443 2600 which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

KDC has an agreement with Knowsley Council which enables all personal assistants to access

a range of learning and development workshops. So, if you want to gain a qualification, progress your career or simply learn new skills to help you in your role, contact **Dot Murphy** on **0151 443 2085**.

Courses include: -

- First Aid and Life Support
- Fire Safety
- Lifting and Carrying of People
- Lifting and Carrying of Loads
- Medicines Management for PAs
- Food for Life

For more information, visit our website or call us on 0151 480 4090

Payroll Points Important Deadlines



A reminder that it is really important that you tell us about any changes affecting your PAs wages as soon as possible. Our Payroll Team will always

do its best to make amendments in time for pay day but we need to have at least **TWO WEEKS' NOTICE** of any changes.

Here's a list of the next few payment dates with the deadlines for notifying us of any changes:

Date DP received	Wages Pay Date	Lat date for payroll changes
27 October	3 November	20 October
24 November	1 December	17 November
22 December	29 December*	15 December
19 January	26 January	12 January
16 February	23 February	9 February

* Note: Payslips will be sent out early for Christmas

Neil's Story...



Neil lives in Huyton, with his girlfriend Kathryn. He has an acquired brain injury with complex health needs. Neil's personal health budget is paid via Direct Payments and KDC provides a Managed Account service for this. The money is used to prevent him moving into permanent nursing care and to pay for person-centred care at home. As a result Neil's health, well-being and communications have improved significantly and he is on the road to recovery. His story is told by his mum Cathy.

In August 2012 my son Neil suffered a severe traumatic brain injury after being abandoned by a taxi driver. He fell 50 foot from a flyover and was found hours later by a lady on her way to work. He had suffered subarachnoid haemorrhage, left subdural hematoma, intracerebral haemorrhage with comminute fracture and was given three hours to live. He underwent surgery at Walton Neurological Centre where his skull was removed. Against the odds Neil survived and is now slowly winning the battle to regain his life.

Before his accident, Neil was a fit, athletic young man who had played football at professional level including appearances for Chester F.C. He was and still is hugely popular with many friends and a loving family. Neil is a proud young man with a good sense of humour who is strong willed and knows what he wants. He likes music, banter, football, horse racing, blue planet and Top Gear.

Neil communicates to his family, friends and carers by his facial expressions. However, through intensive therapy Neil has been encouraged to eat, enabling his peg feed to be reduced. These intensive sessions have also encouraged him to regain the use of his fingers and he is now able to give "thumbs up" to indicate choices. He is also weight bearing on his legs with support from the therapists. However, each session costs £96.

Neil's family, friends and community members raised funds last year to buy him a second hand ambulance to attend the therapy sessions but it now needs replacing. A benefit night in the summer raised further funds but more funds are needed.



If you can help in anyway Neil and his family would be extremely grateful.

Find **"help Neil get his life back"** on **Facebook** for more information

HAVE YOUR SAY

Do you have any questions about any aspect of direct payments? Have you had an experience – good or bad - which you would like to share? Is there anything you need to know more about?

If the answer is yes, then contact us here at KDC and we can include your views in our next edition. Contact Joyce on **480 4090** or email her at joyce.greaves@kdc.org.uk