

NEWS & VIEWS



SPRING EDITION 2015



KDC Annual Tea Party

It all takes place from 11.00 am on Friday 19th June on the green behind the Caldwell Centre, Tarbock Road, Huyton L36 0SD.

Bring your family and friends and enjoy a free cup of tea, coffee or soft drink with every cake purchased. We will again be running a fantastic tombola stall and prize draw with all proceeds from the day going towards helping disabled people get out and about, socialise and make new friends. We look forward to seeing you there!

Here's some happy memories from last year



Learning Disability Week 2015
Coming soon



AND OUR SURVEY SAID!

Your team always delivered a high quality of service, compassion and understanding.....above and beyond the normal service.

You are all so dedicated to your job and to helping people and I am so glad that I got to meet you.

I can't thank the direct payments team enough for the help and support that has enabled Mum to have a better quality of life.

I can't praise you enough for the information you gave me I feel able to go away with the knowledge to help me deal with a very difficult situation at home



Thanks!

to everyone who has taken part in our telephone survey to find out what you think about the Direct Payments Support Service KDC provides. It was great to hear so many positive comments as well as have a chance to catch up with you about our latest news and events.

100 people have been surveyed so far and the results show that 95% think that KDC's overall service is either 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent'.

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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Joyce Greaves

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New rights for Carers

Are you caring for someone?

The Care Act sets out new responsibilities for every local authority to ensure that carers have an assessment of their needs in their own right, regardless of the type, level and frequency of support you provide as a carer and irrespective of your financial means. It doesn't matter if the person you care for has not had an assessment or is eligible for services and you do not have to live with the person or even live in same local authority area as them.



Adele Gregory is leading Knowsley Council's plans to ensure that local carers are getting their assessment. She says: "You will be asked by the social worker during the review or reassessment of the person's care and support. However, you can request a Carers Assessment at any point – even before you start caring. The assessment will look at any 'necessary care' you are providing. This is usually helping somebody with something they could otherwise not do. The assessment identifies the needs which arise as a result of the care you provide, particularly where this has a significant impact on your health and wellbeing. If you are eligible, you will be given an annual budget (up to a maximum of £350 per year) which can be spent on items and services of your choice to meet your needs."

Adele tells us that some carers in Knowsley have already been assessed and are currently planning how to spend their money with some choosing very interesting ways and others purchasing traditional support such as carers vouchers.

Contact the **KAT Team** on **0151 443 2600** to request a Carers Assessment and visit <http://www.knowyourcare.co.uk/i-need-help-with/being-a-carer/carers-assessments.aspx> for more information. You can download a copy of the leaflet from our website.



IMPORTANT NOTICE! Home Employment Insurance Cover

Every year you will be contacted by your insurance provider to renew your policy. **Please take care that you choose the correct level of cover.**

Some of our customers have been caught out. For those of you with **Premier Care** policies make sure you choose the 'Deluxe' policy. If you have a policy with Fish Insurance choose the 'Full Cover' option. If in doubt, call **Colette** on **480 8873**.

Support for you...



The law on workplace pensions has changed. All employers must provide and pay into a pension scheme for certain staff. This is called **Automatic Enrolment** and it applies to individuals who employ a personal assistant (PA) to care for them at home.

Join a support group near you!



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. Dates for the summer and autumn will be arranged shortly and if you would like the chance to join the discussions and help influence the decision-makers in Knowsley, contact **Joyce** on **480 4090** to find out more.

If you employ a PA you will have received a letter from The Pensions Regulator telling you about your new legal duties and asking you to nominate a contact. KDC is hosting an Information Session for you, your family or your carers to find out more about your legal duties and what you need to do now.

INFORMATION SESSION

The Caldwell Centre, Tarbock Road, Huyton L36 0SD
Wednesday 20 May 2015 - 10.00 am to 12 noon

Book your place now – contact Johanne on 480 4090 or email Johanne.ross@kdc.org.uk

The session will also explain how **KDC's Payroll Service** will be changing to help you comply with your responsibilities and make it easy for you. A representative from the **Pensions Regulator** will be on hand to answer your questions.



Planning for the future – a date for your diary

For those of you interested in getting your financial affairs in order to protect your loved ones after you've gone, we have a useful workshop coming up.

We have arranged for a specialist adviser from **Birchall Blackburn Law** solicitors to come along to a special meeting of the **Peer Support Group** to talk about wills and trusts and answer all your questions.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE WORKSHOP

The Caldwell Centre, Tarbock Road, Huyton L36 0SD
Wednesday 1 July 2015 - 10.00 am to 12 noon

Book your place now – contact Johanne on 480 4090 or email Johanne.ross@kdc.org.uk



Payroll Points

Does your Personal Assistant need a pay slip?



Excellent
 Good
 Average

Thanks for your feedback!

Many thanks to all of you who took part in our recent payroll survey. We are delighted to announce that the results show that 95% of you are happy with our payroll service and 99% would recommend it to others.

We have been listening to your comments to help us improve our service and one of the things people have asked for is more help with managing their PAs annual leave entitlement.



From 1 April 2015, provided you notify us of the holidays your PA takes, we will be able to keep track and tell you the outstanding allowance at any point in time. Simply ring Joanne or Sandra on 949 5442 or email joanne.morris@kdc.org.uk.

New entitlement to the Employment Allowance

The Government's scheme for reducing National Insurance costs for employers has been extended.

New rules from 1 April 2015 mean that if you employ a Personal Assistant (or Carer) you are now eligible to get up to £2,000 a year off your National Insurance bill.

The allowance will reduce your employers' National Insurance contributions each time your payroll is run until the £2,000 has gone or the tax year ends (whichever is sooner).

KDC's Payroll Service is busy completing the necessary changes in the system to make this happen automatically. You will not get any money back from HMRC, but the amount you will need to pay over at the end of each quarter will be reduced by the applicable amount.



Important dates for your diary

Date DP received	Wages Pay Date	Lat date for payroll changes
11 May	18 May	4 May
8 June	15 June	1 June
6 July	13 July	29 June
3 August	10 August	27 July
31 August	7 September	24 August

Free training for you and your PAs

Don't forget that you and your PAs are entitled to free access to lots of courses and workshops. Ranging from medicines management to dementia awareness, courses can be classroom based or completed in e-learning modules, on-line from home. For more information visit our website where you will find details of all of the courses available.

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**