

NEWS & VIEWS



SPRING EDITION 2016



National Living Wage now in force

The National Living Wage (NLW) came into effect on 1 April 2016 and means that employers must pay all workers, aged 25 and over at least £7.20 per hour. It applies to both full time and part time employees.

If you employ a Personal Assistant, you must make sure you are using the correct rate of pay. Your Direct Payments should be sufficient to cover the new National Living Wage rate of £7.20 per hour.

The NLW runs alongside the existing National Minimum Wage (NMW) rates already in force. The NMW rates are upgraded in October each year. These are the current rates for 2015/16:

£7.20
per hour
from April 2016

THE NATIONAL LIVING WAGE
A STEP UP FOR BRITAIN

Age	Minimum Rate
Over 25 (NLW)	£7.20 an hour
21-25	£6.70
18-20	£5.30
16-17	£3.87
Apprentices	£3.30

Employment Allowance

Since April 2014, every employer - including people who employ their own PAs - has been entitled to an annual Employment Allowance of **£2,000** to reduce their employers national insurance costs.

The government has announced it will increase the Employment Allowance to **£3,000** a year from April 2016. This measure will help lessen the impact of the introduction of the new National Living Wage.



28 April is 'Pay It Forward Day'

KDC has pledged its support for the Pay it Forward campaign. On Friday 28 April, our staff teams will all be carrying out a random act of kindness for 3 or more people and encouraging them to do the same. Pay it Forward cards will be passed onto the person receiving the good deed so that they can, in turn, pass the card on, along with a good deed for some else.

The possibilities are endless and it's a great way to get people involved in their communities. For more information and lots of ideas for your good deeds, visit www.payitforwardday.com and you can follow the campaign on Facebook and Twitter @payitforwardday

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

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Direct Payments Team Welcomes A New Member!

A warm welcome goes to Shruthi Urs who joined us recently as full time Payroll Assistant. Shruthi will be working alongside Joanne and Sandra to help cope with the growth in local demand for our specialist payroll service.

Originally from India, Shruthi joins us with a wealth of experience. She will be invaluable in delivering our Pensions Auto Enrolment Service – see back page for more information.

deafblinduk

A new service for local residents....

Deafblind UK is the longest established national charity serving deafblind people. We are delighted to announce their recent appointment of Corinne Barclay as Outreach Officer covering Knowsley, Liverpool and more widely Merseyside. The charity works with individuals by focusing on unlocking the person behind the disability, to help deafblind people to achieve their aspirations, no matter how simple or how adventurous.

Deafblind UK offers free membership to anyone who is deafblind or has a combined sight and hearing loss of any degree. Membership benefits include:

- A **FREE** one week holiday in an accessible caravan, near Great Yarmouth (subject to availability)
- A **FREE** quarterly magazine, 'Open Hand', keeping people informed and up to date on latest events and campaigns, provided in an accessible format.
- **FREE** access to their Information and Advice Line plus the option to receive regular calls for a catch up and general chat.

Become a member: Tel: 0800 132320 , Textphone: 01733 358100, Fax: 01733 358 356 or Email: info@deafblind.org.uk

The service is open Monday to Thursday 9am- 5pm, and Friday 9am-4pm and for the most vulnerable members, there is an Outreach Service providing face-to-face, bespoke support through home visits. Contact Corinne on 07884 658027 or by email at corinne.barclay@deafblind.org.uk.



Support for you...

Benefits Help And Advice

Many customers have been contacting us looking for help with problems around their benefits, particularly changes to their mobility allowance with the move to PIP (Personal Independence Payment). Whilst KDC does not deliver a benefits advice service directly, we can signpost and refer to organisations that do and our website contains details of a range of local agencies offering help.

Simply click on the yellow 'Info and Advice' button and use the links on the right hand side of the page. If you need help to use the website, give us a call.

INFO & ADVICE



Disability Rights UK

Disability Rights UK has a useful guide to PIP and making a claim, including how to appeal. To download a copy visit www.disabilityrightsuk.org

citizens advice

The Liverpool Advice Alliance is a group of organisations including the Citizens Advice Bureau and a number of independent advice agency partners working together across the city to help people with benefits and appeals. Contact them via their website at www.liverpoolcap.org.uk.

Knowsley has its own partnership of agencies offering free, confidential, impartial and independent advice, called Advice Services Knowsley (ASK) you can contact them via their website at www.adviceservicesknowsley.org.uk For telephone advice call the Merseyside Citizens Adviceline on 0344 826 9694. Lines are open Monday - Friday, 10am - 4pm.

The Prescot and Whiston Community Advice Centre will help with form -filling, appeals and may be able to represent people at tribunals. Call 443 4369 to make an appointment. You can also 'drop in' between 9.30 and 12.30 Monday to Friday. They are located at the Prescot One Stop Shop, Aspinal Street, Prescot L34 5GA.

MS

If you have multiple sclerosis, the MS Society offers lots of tips and advice on how to make

a claim for PIP including a guide to completing the 'how your disability affects you' section and a template for keeping a daily diary.

There is a free legal advice line for PIP appeals provided via the Disability Law Service. Visit www.mssociety.org.uk or phone 0800 800 8000.

TURN2US

Turn2us is a national charity that helps people in financial hardship to gain access to welfare benefits, charitable grants and support services. It has a very

useful interactive website which allows you access free and confidential information and advice on benefits, grants, managing money and redundancy. It also includes an online benefit calculator to work out what you could claim. Visit www.turn2us.org.uk or ring their helpline on 0800 8022000.

Remember that every local authority runs an 'income maximisation service' to check you are claiming the right benefits and help make sure you get proper entitlement to housing benefit, council tax discounts, free school meals etc.

They will not support you to appeal benefit decisions so you will need to contact the CAB or another agency for this. Home visits

can be arranged if needed. The number for Knowsley is 0151 443 4045. For Liverpool, ring 0800 0283697.

It is also worth remembering that if you work – or have worked – in a particular trade, industry or profession, your professional body may offer different forms of support for its members, so it might be worth getting in touch.

