

NEWS & VIEWS



SUMMER EDITION 2014



Tea Party Success!



A sunny day and a wonderful turnout helped make our first Tea Party fundraising event a fantastic success!

Thank you to everyone who helped - from putting up the tents to baking cakes and donating tombola items. A huge **THANK YOU** goes out to all who came along and gave generously to our cause - tackling disability hate crime in Knowsley.

We raised over £600 on the day and the money will be used to help fund a major project to raise awareness about hate crime and how to report it, as well as making sure that there are robust support systems in place for victims.

Many people see hate-based behaviour as just part of daily life: research shows that nine out of ten people with learning disabilities experience this behaviour. We are aware that in Knowsley the level of hate incidents is far greater than official statistics would suggest - despite that fact that more incidents are now being reported than ever before.

If you have experienced or witnessed harm, harassment or abuse, please report it. You can do this in lots of ways, for example:

- Call KDC on 480 4090 (9am - 5pm Monday to Friday)
- Call the police on 101 (or 999 if it's an emergency)
- Call the Stop Hate UK line on 0800 138 1625
- Call into any One Stop Shop
- Talk to anyone where you see this sign >>>



The Direct Payment rate explained

For those of you who use Direct Payments to employ a Personal Assistant, Knowsley Council uses a 'standard' £9.00 hourly rate to calculate the amount of money you receive (for some people with very complex needs the rate may be higher).

This rate is designed to cover your PA's wages as well as all of the associated employment costs. To help explain this, we have listed the hourly costs of each component, based on an average care package, in the following illustration:

£9 per hour Direct Payment rate

The hourly rate of gross pay for your PA £7.20

Plus the costs of:

1. Employers National Insurance contribution	£0.55	
2. Employers and Public Liability Insurance	£0.12	
3. Payroll processing fee	£0.26	
4. Cover for annual leave	£0.78	
5. Cover for sickness and training days	£0.09	£1.80
Total		£9.00

If you need any more information about this, please contact Andy Gilbert on 480 8873.

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.

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A warm welcome goes to John Rigby who joined us recently as part-time Payroll Assistant. John is training to be an accountant and will be using his skills to help us cope with the growth in local demand for our specialist payroll service. John is a qualified rugby league referee and a keen 'Saints' supporter. He is pictured raising funds with our 'Splat the Rat' challenge at our recent Tea Party event.



The Care Act

The new Care Act represents the most significant reform of care and support in more than 60 years, putting people and their carers in control of their care and support. Regulations and guidance come into force in April next year and Knowsley Council is currently looking at how its services will meet the new requirements.

What will this mean for you?

Here, we list some of the main points:

- **Well-being** - the Care Act states that your physical, mental and emotional well-being should be taken into account when your support needs are being assessed.
- **Prevention** - the Council will have a duty to provide preventative services to help maintain your health and well-being.
- **Information** - the Council must provide you with good information and advice that helps you make decisions about how your support is delivered.
- **Standard criteria** - there will be a minimum eligibility threshold across the country that makes it clear when the Council will have to provide support to you.
- **Personal Budgets** - the care system must be built around you as an individual person.
- **Cap on costs** - there will be a limit (£72,000) to how much you have to pay towards your personal care costs.
- **Carers** - if you are a carer, you will be entitled to an assessment for support in your own right.
- **Advocacy** - if you find it difficult to be involved in your care and support planning processes and do not have anyone to speak up for you, the Council must find you an Independent Advocate.

The Department of Health has launched a consultation on the draft regulations and guidance that will come into effect in April 2015. You can share your views and experience to help shape these to ensure that the provisions in the Act become reality. Visit www.careandsupportregs.dh.gov.uk/ to take part.





UNIQUE ARTWORK UNVEILED

Learning Disability Week 2014 saw the first public viewing of an important art installation. 'My world, My life, My choice' is the result of a collaboration of young people with learning disabilities who have put into pictures their thoughts and feelings about disability. We hope to be taking the work 'on tour' but in the meantime you can see it outside our offices here on Tarbock Road, Huyton.

A much needed break!

In the last edition, we reminded you about how you can use Direct Payments for short breaks and respite. Here's how it worked for one of our clients and his Mum.

Danny has a learning disability and lives with his Mum who is his main carer. Having read our article, Danny's mum made enquiries and received a carers assessment which has led to Danny receiving 4 weeks' worth of respite money as a Direct Payment for the year. Danny and his Mum can now plan how they can use this money and Danny has decided to choose to spend some on a week in a

caravan in North Wales this summer. He is using some of the respite money to pay for the cost of the caravan as well as some extra hours' support from his PA while he is there. Danny is really looking forward to it and Mum says she is really going to enjoy it too as she hasn't had a break for 15 years!



Contact the Knowsley Carers Centre for more information on 549 1412.



Support for you...

Our peer support groups are there for

people like you who want to make best use of their direct payments. You can share your views and experiences to help others, get information and tips about services available and have the opportunity to talk to one of our advisers on a one-to-one basis.



Meetings take place in Huyton and Kirkby and are friendly and welcoming. Why not come along for a cup of tea and a chat and find out more?

Recent topics for discussion have included the Council's spending plans, what to expect from your annual review as well as expert advice on making wills and setting up trusts for your loved-ones.

Here are the dates of the next meetings - we look forward to seeing you!

Huyton meetings

(The Caldwell Centre, Tarbock Road, Huyton L36 0SD)

- 13 August • 1 October • 12 November

Kirkby meetings

(Changing Lives, 101-105 Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby L32 8SA)

- 30 September • 2 December

All meetings begin at 1pm and finish around 3pm.

Accessible News

A recent meeting of the Huyton peer support group suggested we share information about a very helpful publication called 'Easy News'. Produced by United Response, Easy News is a newspaper published every two months to highlight the top news stories. The format is designed to be accessible for people with learning disabilities and makes sense of the jargon and difficult language often used in news and politics.



Happy Holiday!

Following recent discussions at our Peer Support Groups about good accessible holidays, Lisa Simpson decided to share her experience of her trip to the Canary Islands. Lisa says 'If you're thinking about going abroad but not sure where to go then I strongly recommend Las Americas in Tenerife. It's completely wheelchair friendly with 11 miles of flat promenade and a section of the beach where you can get down in your chair. I stayed in the hotel 'La Siesta' which has fully accessible rooms with huge bathrooms. Most of the bars and restaurants are accessible and there are disabled toilets dotted around - although I would still recommend getting a Euro-key. Tenerife airport is particularly friendly towards disabled passengers - I wish every airport was as good!'

If you would like to share a good - or bad - experience about your travels, please get in touch.





Payroll Points

Are you satisfied?



We are always looking at ways to improve our payroll service for you. During the next few weeks, you will receive a questionnaire asking about the quality of the service you receive and whether or not you are happy. It would help us a lot if you could complete and return the survey as soon as possible. We will use your answers to make improvements and make sure we keep our customers satisfied.

Dates for your diary
Here's a note of the dates for direct payments and wages payments this year:

Date DP received	Wages Pay Date
1 September	8 September
29 September	6 October
27 October	3 November
24 November	1 December
22 December	29 December*

* Note: Pay slips will be sent out early for Christmas

And Finally...

Staff and volunteers from KDC pictured before the run (and the rain) for this year's Knowsley Active Challenge. Thanks to all who sponsored our team - money raised will be used towards stamping out disability hate crime.

Pleased to meet you!

Jamie uses his Direct Payments to get involved in all sorts of clubs and activities.

He loves drama and dance and attends the Ella inclusive performing arts group in Runcorn. He played Dandini in their panto last Christmas (pictured)

and is currently rehearsing for the groups production of Oliver! Formed in 2008, Ella helps people gain confidence and self-esteem through acting, singing and dancing.

Jamie also keeps busy with volunteering jobs for PSS and Barnardos, classes at John Moores and he goes bowling every Wednesday.



For more information about Ella call 01928 588526 or visit their website at www.ellatogether.org.uk

Knowsley Active Challenge 2014



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

HAVE YOUR SAY