

NEWS & VIEWS



SUMMER EDITION 2012



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Sunday



Monday



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday

Welcome to the 'summer' edition of our Newsletter for people who use Knowsley's direct payments scheme. Even though the weather has not been very kind, the holiday season is now in full swing and we hope you are managing to get a break. You can read about how to use direct payments to pay for short breaks on Page 3.

Have your say and 'Make it Real'

People who use care and support from across the country have identified a set of statements that describe what they would expect to see and experience if personalisation and community-based support is working well.

These **Making it Real** statements are markers to help local councils and providers to measure how well they are doing to help people have choice and control over the way their support services are delivered. **Making it Real** has been launched by the **Think Local, Act Personal Partnership**, a group of over 30 national partners that are committed to real change in adult social care.

Later in the year the Knowsley User Led Organisation will be consulting with people who use services to examine the markers in **Making it Real** and identify the top three priorities for Knowsley. We will keep you informed of these plans but in the meantime, KDC has made a commitment by signing up to **Making it Real** and we are running a workshop on 15 August to look at what is important for our customers and what we need to do better.

If you would like to get involved and have your say, contact Johanne Ross on 480 4090 for more details. For more information about **Making it Real** visit our website at www.kdc.org.uk



Your Newsletter - If you would like to receive an electronic version of this newsletter, simply send an email to johanne.ross@kdc.org.uk quoting DPNews in the subject box. You can also access a copy of this and all previous editions by logging onto our website at www.kdc.org.uk and clicking the 'Direct Payments' button.

Meet the Team

We are pleased to introduce 3 new members to our KDC family. Ken Shelbourne joins us as part-time Bookkeeper, helping us to keep our accounting records in order and making sure we stay in budget. Paula Lomas is our new part-time Learning Disabilities Coordinator and will be looking after 'BIG' - Knowsley's Being Involved Group which enables people with learning disabilities to self-advocate and have their say. Paula will also be taking the lead to ensure that all information produced for people who use services is fully accessible and properly available. Last but not least, we welcome Irene Croft, our new part-time cleaner.



Ken Shelbourne



Paula Lomas



Irene Croft

These people are part of the wider team here at KDC. Your Direct Payments team members and their contact details are listed below.

Andy Gilbert

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



Tom Baker

Independent Living Coordinator
Managed Accounts Officer
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Joanne Morris

Payroll Officer
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Sandra Windsor

Payroll Coordinator
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Martin Neary

Business Support - KMBC
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Joyce Duckworth

Manager
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Direct Payments

Here's a list of payment dates for your Direct Payments for the next few months

Date paid into bank

09/07/12

06/08/12

03/09/12

01/10/12

Period covered

09/07/12 to 05/08/12

06/08/12 to 02/09/12

03/09/12 to 30/09/12

01/10/12 to 28/10/12

Your Direct Payme



Members of the Direct Payments Support Group meet every 6 weeks and discuss all sorts of issues affecting them such as KDC's new Fact Sheets on sick pay and holiday entitlement for PAs and the insurance requirements (you can find these on our website at www.kdc.org.uk). The group heard from Knowsley Council's lead officer for self-directed support who gave a talk on what to expect from the annual review process as well as plans to introduce pre-payment cards. Last time, members talked about how they make the most of the rail networks to get out and about, sharing their experiences, advice and tips.

Future topics will include the record-keeping and audit requirements and the process for paying client contributions following a financial assessment.

In October we will be having a follow-up visit by a local officer from the DWP to bring us up to date about the implementation of planned changes to welfare benefits with the introduction of the Personal Independence Payment and the new Universal Credit. Later in the year the Group will be looking at what happens at 'the Panel'.

PIP to replace DLA

In May, members of the Group attended a special meeting hosted by KDC to look at the plans to introduce the new Personal independence Payment (PIP) in place of the existing Disability Living Allowance. We heard from Julie Sprosen from the local office of the DWP who was keen to point out that while the government estimates that nearly half a million existing DLA claimants will not be entitled to the new benefit, those who are genuinely in need will continue to have access to the funding they require. The new benefit will be phased in from April next year and everyone currently receiving DLA will be visited for an assessment against the criteria for PIP. The implementation plans are yet to be finalised and Julie will be coming back in October to provide an update on the latest news. KDC will be acting as a referral agent for home visits by benefits advisers to enable vulnerable people to understand the changes and manage their benefits. You can get more information via our website.



nts Peer Support Group

Direct Payments and Short Breaks

Did you know that you can receive a direct payment to pay for a short term break (sometimes called respite care)? A short-term break is important to help you keep well. It could be time away from home in a hotel or a stay with friends. It could be a placement in a residential or respite establishment outside of Knowsley or it could simply be support in your own home to enable your carer to have a break. You will need to have an assessment to find out if you are entitled and the social worker will work out how much money you will receive. This is usually paid in a lump sum so that you can plan your breaks over the year and you may have to pay a client contribution towards the amount you receiving. For more information, contact us for our Fact Sheet on Short Term Breaks or log on to www.KDC.org.uk to see all our Direct Payments Fact Sheets.



From Peer Support to Mentoring

Some of the members of the Direct Payments Peer Support Group have expressed an interest in being trained to work as volunteer mentors, supporting new users of the scheme overcome some of their anxieties and offering practical help and guidance about various aspects of the scheme such as opening bank accounts, finding the right personal assistant etc. Irene Howey from Halewood

has been receiving direct payments for over a year now to support her husband, James, and is already lending a helping hand to one young man who has recently taken up the scheme. She says 'there's nothing like being able to get advice from someone who's actually been there and gone through it, and I hope that my experience can be of help to others'. John Wardale from Huyton (pictured) uses his direct payment to employ agency staff and to pay for short breaks and is also looking forward to becoming a mentor.



What the Peer Support Group means to me

Sue Johnson looks after her sister Tina who receives a direct payment that allows her to employ other carers so that Sue can have some time for herself now and then. Sue says 'the direct payment helps to give flexibility which is important for Tina, as one week is



never the same as the next and I can organise cover to suit Tina's needs.' Sue is a founder member of the Direct Payments Peer Support Group and goes on to say; 'joining the Group has been great because I can get lots of information and advice from other people who are in a similar situation to my own. Sharing experiences is really helpful and I have learned a lot about the different ways people use their direct payment. Learning from others is a really good way to get information and this time we had a great time talking about accessible holidays, travelling on trains, how London transport looks after its disabled passengers really well, plus, I got lots of tips about free entry to places like Madame Toussauds! I also had a chat with another member about local places for accessible swimming'.

Sue is a trained counsellor and uses the little spare time she has to volunteer with Liverpool Bereavement Services. She is interested in becoming a Direct Payment 'Mentor' and says 'I am looking forward to being able to hold someone's hand through the early stages of the scheme and whilst I know that I won't have all the answers, I will certainly be able to point them in the right direction.'



Join us!

The Direct Payment Peer Support Group is open for anyone who uses Knowsley's Direct Payments scheme. Meetings are every six weeks and are held at the Caldwell Centre, Tarbock Road at 2pm on Wednesdays. Dates for future meetings are listed below. Additional locations, dates and times can be arranged if required. If you would like to join us, please contact Johanne Ross on 480 4090 or email her at johanne.ross@kdc.org.uk. Travel costs to attend the meetings may be reimbursed on request.

Next meeting: 14 September 2012, 2.00pm, The Caldwell Centre, Tarbock Road, Huyton L36 OSD.

Future meetings: 24 October 2012, 12 December 2012, 23 January 2013, 6 March 2013, 17 April 2013, 29 May 2013.



Payroll Points



New Pay Slips

Our new style pay slips were introduced to the Peer Support Group who welcomed the new easy-to-understand format.



We hope you approve too but if you have any issues, please call Joanne or Sandra on 949 5442.

Payroll dates for your diary

Payslip sent out	Payment date	Period worked
11/07/12	16/07/12	18/06/12 to 15/07/12
08/08/12	13/08/12	16/07/12 to 12/08/12
05/09/12	10/09/12	13/08/12 to 09/09/12
03/10/12	08/10/12	10/09/12 to 07/10/12

PLEASED TO MEET YOU

Hi, my name is Annabel. I am 23 years old and have had epilepsy since I was 8. I need a lot of care which my mum and dad have been giving and continue to give me. It meant we were always together but as I got older I needed my own time and space and so did my parents. My options were limited but then I managed to get direct payments from Knowsley Council to help me and I was able to join two support agencies - Options and Active Community Enterprises (ACE).



Annabel (left) pictured at a party with her support worker, Louise

From then my life changed. I was able to go to college and study fashion and textiles with a support worker from Options. I have finished college now but still have support on a Monday for shopping, bowling or a walk in the park. On Tuesday afternoons I go to the disco at Lloyds Bar in Liverpool with ACE and to a community centre in Widnes doing Arts and Crafts on a Wednesday. On Thursdays ACE take me to the Beat Bar in Widnes for an evening disco.

A couple of times a year I have a respite break in the ACE Caravan in Wales. I have made lots of new friends and have a good time and it allows my parents to have some relaxing time too. Sometimes ACE will organise things like a barbeque on New Brighton Beach or at Otterspool. That's great when the sun shines.

My support workers have become very special to me. Direct payments have allowed me to do much more with my life and it has helped me to be more confident as well. I just hope that I can be helped like this in future. It is so important to me.

Annabel

Did you know?

In addition to delivering information, support and advice about Knowsley's Direct Payment scheme, KDC provides general help and guidance in all aspects of disability issues. KDC runs a service called T.A.L.K. which stands for Talk and Listen Knowsley, providing specialist independent advocacy services to enable people with learning disabilities to cope in situations that arise in their lives - that can often be quite serious and stressful. We act as their independent advocate - 'on their side' - ensuring that their wishes are known and their voice is heard and helping them to think about their choices. KDC also offers professional support to enable adults and young people with learning needs to self-advocate and speak up about things that matter to them. KDC also operates the Knowsley Parents Together project which works with parents or pregnant women with learning support needs to overcome the barriers they face. KDC believes that everyone has a right to be a parent, however for some this is challenging. To find out more about what KDC can offer you, contact us at 480 4090 or log onto www.kdc.org.uk