

NEWS & VIEWS



SUMMER EDITION 2011



Welcome

Hello and a very warm welcome from me, Joyce Duckworth, to readers of our newsletter for users of the Knowsley Direct Payments scheme.

This is the first edition since I took over from KDC's previous manager, Chris Roderick - who is now enjoying a happy retirement - and I hope you like its fresh, new-look format.

We are planning to send out four seasonal editions containing information and updates about a range of topics which we hope will be of interest to you. Some of the key issues in the autumn issue will include the effect that the Council's new Fairer Charging Policy may have on your Direct Payments as well as some important guidance about your responsibilities in relation to employment checks on prospective Personal Assistants. In the meantime, I hope you find this summer edition interesting and informative, and remember to get in touch if you have any comments, suggested topics for inclusion or experiences you would like to share. You can reach me on 480 4090 or by email at joyce.duckworth@kdc.org.uk.

Best wishes
Joyce



Joyce Duckworth - Manager

Join Our Club

Becoming an employer can sound like a scary option if you have no experience of managing staff and finances. Wouldn't it be great to be able to have a chat with somebody who had the same worries as you, but has used Direct Payments for some time now, and see what it's really like?

Peer Support Group

KDC is keen to set up a Peer Support network, based on the simple idea of a person who has experience and knowledge of using Direct Payments successfully supporting one who doesn't. The Peer Support Group could link into local groups of disabled people, carers and families and could become a forum for users to have a say in what's going on around Direct Payments in Knowsley. We think that having somewhere to chat, share experiences, ideas and concerns and listen to how others make Direct Payments work for them is really valuable. So if you are interested in getting involved, contact Jayne Kinsella on **480 8873** and by email at jayne.kinsella@kdc.org.uk





Meet the Team

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Managed Bank Accounts

Just a reminder that here at KDC we can provide a friendly, cost effective service to help you manage your individual budget. By using our Managed Account service KDC will:

- Open and operate a bank account on your behalf
- Maintain a record of the bank account for financial audits
- Maintain a record of how the money has been spent
- Make salary payments to your Personal Assistants or preferred care provider.
- Maintain a record and make payments to the Inland Revenue on your behalf

If you would like more information about this service contact Tom Baker, on **480 8873** or by email at **tom.baker@kdc.org.uk**

Payment dates for your Direct Payments

Here's a list of the dates for the rest of this year:

Date paid into bank	Period covered
08/08/11	08/08/11 to 04/09/11
05/09/11	05/09/11 to 02/10/11
03/10/11	03/10/11 to 30/10/11
31/10/11	31/10/11 to 27/11/11
28/11/11	28/11/11 to 25/12/11

FREE Training

Knowsley Direct Payments Scheme

KDC runs a training course every month covering all aspects of Knowsley's Direct Payments scheme, including advice about what it means to be an employer, and aims to answer any questions you may have. The sessions last about an hour and are held on the last Tuesday of every month at the Centre for Independent Living in Huyton. There is a 'clinic' held after every session where you can discuss particular issues that are personal to you on a one-to-one basis with our advisors. The next session is on Tuesday 30 August at 10 am.

More FREE Training



Safeguarding course

"No Silence, No Secrets"

There is a free half-day course available for anyone who works with, or potentially comes into contact with vulnerable adults. The course will help you identify if someone is being subjected to any form of abuse and provides guidance in the best way to alert the proper authorities if you become aware of such a situation. The course takes place at the Huyton Suite on 13 September.

If you feel you and/or your PA could benefit from these training opportunities, please contact Jayne Kinsella on 480 8873 or email her at jayne.kinsella@kdc.org.uk.

Independent Support Planning

Knowsley Council has asked KDC's Independent Living Advisors to take part in a pilot scheme aimed at improving ways for people to plan their own support.

A support plan is where you work out how you would like to meet your needs and make changes to your life with your resources from your Personal Budget. Some people will write their own support plan or get assistance from family, friends or Knowsley Social Services. Others may like to use an independent service such as KDC to support them, which is why we're participating in this pilot.

The pilot starts in August and is expected to last for around six months, after which time, the results will be looked at and the Council will decide how best to provide this service in the future. Look out for more information about this in future newsletters.

For more about support planning, visit 'In Control' at: www.supportplanning.org





Payroll Points

Any Changes? - Let us Know!

Have you been awarded an increase in your support package?

Is your PA going on holiday?

Has your PA worked extra hours this month?

- Don't forget to tell the payroll team at KDC so they can make sure their wages are correct

You can inform us of any changes by completing and sending in a Pay Variation Form or simply by emailing me at joanne.morris@kdc.org.uk

By way of a reminder of the payroll dates for the next few months, here's a list of dates that the payslips will be sent to you.

Payslip sent out	Payment date	Period worked
07/09/11	12/09/11	15/08/11 to 11/09/11
05/10/11	10/10/11	12/09/11 to 09/10/11
02/11/11	07/11/11	10/10/11 to 06/11/11
31/11/11	05/12/11	07/11/11 to 04/12/11

OVER TO YOU

In this section we invite you to share your stories and points of view with other users of Knowsley's Direct Payments scheme. Here, Frances Campbell tells us about her experience.

'A Team Effort'

Mr Campbell has been receiving Direct Payments now for over a year and he uses the money to pay his Personal Assistants who work alongside his family and friends to provide the care and support he needs.

This wide circle of support means that he no longer has to rely solely on his wife. Frances says "It's what you would call a real team effort". She added "There is a lot of pressure on us and life is far from plain sailing and from time to time, I just need to recharge my batteries. Having a Direct Payment means I can take a break sometimes, even for a short time and I don't need to worry if I need to be away because I know that Calum is safe and happy".



Calum and Frances Campbell

And Finally

If you have any comments or queries or would like to receive an electronic version of this newsletter, please let us know by emailing direct.payments@kdc.org.uk

If you would like to share your story or air your views, contact Jayne Kinsella on 480 8873 or email her at jayne.kinsella@kdc.org.uk

