

The Direct Payment Support Group

Is open to all including people thinking of using DP. The group will meet on the following dates at the Ormonde Centre, Newbury College, Monks Lane, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 7TD

The meetings are from 1.30pm – 3pm.

Future **2009** meetings:

Sept 8

Oct 6

Nov 3

Dec 1

If you are interested in coming along to find out more, please 'phone **18002 0118 9419183** (please dial the whole number).

Training for Direct Payment Carers

Newbury College is one of the first Colleges' in the UK to have been awarded the highly acclaimed Training Quality Standard – the benchmark for excellence in working with organisations on training.

National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ's) are the modern way to provide practical, vocational training. They build up the skills actually needed in the workplace today and provide a nationally recognised qualification. The only way to get an NVQ is by proving you can do a real job in the real world. They are available to all ages, at any career stage and no previous qualifications are necessary. As the skills are assessed through work-based evidence, there are no 'end of unit' tests or exams. Certification is based purely on evidence of the skills.

An NVQ comprises several units which can be tailored to reflect the job that an employee is carrying out and the skills they need to perform. Each unit is made up of a number of national occupational standards that cover all the main aspects of a job.

There is currently a large amount of funding available for NVQ's in the care sector and many NVQ's at levels 2 and 3 are now fully funded under the governments' 'Train to Gain' scheme.

Anyone wishing to study an NVQ will need to attend a half day induction at Newbury College at the beginning of their course. These are held every month. The learner is then assessed in the workplace by an assessor experienced in Health and Social care. Completion timescales are 6 months for a level 2 and 9 months for a level 3.

In addition to our NVQ programmes Newbury College also offers a range of short courses to help staff stay safe and meet legal requirements - typical courses include Appointed Person First Aid, Food Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Assessment and Manual Handling.

For more information please call Business Development Solutions on 01635 845229 or

e-mail business@newbury-college.ac.uk



Disability Information in West Berkshire

A website for information on many aspects of disability, with attention to the West Berkshire area.

Visit

www.diwb.org

Summer Lunch at the Rowbarge

A very nice time was had by all when Direct Payment users and guests attended the summer lunch, which was held at the Rowbarge on 11th August – why not come next time?



Personal Budgets – An Overview

A Personal Budget is an agreed amount of money to meet your social care needs and key outcomes (not healthcare). Anyone who is over 18 and is eligible for support from community services can have a budget.

Personal Budgets differ from Direct Payments, firstly in the way your care needs are assessed and secondly, in the way the budget you are allocated can address and support your care needs and gives greater scope in recognising your aspirations.

Whilst not finalised, it is thought that you will be able to purchase services back from West Berkshire Council, i.e. day services. The accounting procedures are also less stringent.

The process is as follows:

- Talk to Care Manager and decide if you want to try it out.
- Next complete a Self Assessment Questionnaire (which an unpaid carer can also comment on).
- Your Care Manager fills in their section of the assessment and a final answer to each question is agreed.
- The Welfare Benefits Team completes a financial assessment with you.
- Your Care Manager works out how much money you need to meet your support needs.
- You plan how you are going to use the money to meet the outcomes that you agreed with your Care Manager, this is called a support plan.
- This has to be agreed by the Care Manager.
- The money must be paid into a designated bank account.
- You can organise your support and start putting your support plan into action, i.e. hiring an agency, recruiting or purchasing things you need.
- Within 6 weeks you will meet with your Care Manager to review that everything is going ok, and any changes are agreed and actioned.
- After 1 year you will meet to review things.

There are many ways in which you can direct your own support. You can have as much or as little control over this as you choose. Directing your own support is about you being involved with the planning of your support and this is then arranged in a way that suits you.

INFORMATION CORNER

*Statutory pay increases from 6 April
2009*

Weekly amounts of maternity pay, adoption pay and paternity pay increase to £123.06 per week and sick pay increases to £79.15 per week. Statutory holidays increase to 28 days a year (for a 5 day week), this figure includes Bank Holidays.

A Personal View

A government green paper has revealed plans to stop paying disability benefits and hand the cash over to social services instead. The consultation period for the green paper ends on 13 November. If there has been no significant outcry against the plans by then, it seems very likely that whichever party is in power after the next election will seize this opportunity to cut public spending by over a billion pounds a year.

Join the Benefits and Work campaign to stop these cuts. Log onto [http://www.benefitsandwork.co.uk:80/disability-living-allowance-\(dla\)/dla-aa-cuts](http://www.benefitsandwork.co.uk:80/disability-living-allowance-(dla)/dla-aa-cuts) for more information and sign up.

Trevor Dobson