

BORDERS DIRECT PAYMENT AGENCY NEWS

January 2007

Staff changes

Betty McClory retired at the end of last year. Betty worked for direct payments since the project started in the Borders; her knowledge and kindness will be missed. We are in the process of recruiting a new member of staff. Meanwhile, Brian Stewart and Niccy Kershaw will be covering for Betty.

We are delighted to welcome Sheila Cochrane back from maternity leave. Sheila works mainly on the payroll service.

Online filing

HM Revenue and Customs are sending out letters to some employers, offering them £100 if annual returns are completed online. The use of this money was discussed at the Direct Payment Working Group, and it was agreed that any incentive from HM Revenue should remain in the direct payment bank account and be used as contingency.

Training

- ❖ Vulnerable Adult Protection and Domestic Abuse 26 February
- ❖ Protecting Vulnerable Adults 'Ensuring Rights and Preventing Abuse'
Mornings only 3 April or 8 May or 12 June
- ❖ Moving and Handling 2 day courses for new workers – 1/2 February, 8/9 February and 13/14 February 2007
- ❖ Moving and Handling 1 day refresher courses – 22 and 27 February 2007

If you or your staff would like to do training that isn't mentioned above, please contact us and we will try to provide what you are looking for.

Disclosures

From the start of the New Year the local authority expects direct payment users to carry out enhanced disclosure checks on new employees. This can be done through the Borders Direct Payment Agency. If you don't wish to take up an enhanced disclosure check on a new employee you should inform your care manager, giving your reasons. If you are regularly receiving a service by staying in the home of your employee, disclosure checks should be carried out on the other adults in the household.

Direct payment event 2007

We plan to have an event this year which will be open to all direct payment clients. The focus of the day will be around being an employer. Please let us know what areas of employment you would like an opportunity to discuss by telephoning Quentin on 01896 759700, or e.mail us at borders.directpayment@virgin.net as soon as possible.

Representatives

We are looking for people who would be willing to sit on the Direct Payment Working Group. The Working Group meets 4 – 5 times a year. Representatives also have the opportunity to meet each other 4 – 5 times a year along with the staff from the Agency. Expenses are reimbursed. For more information please phone the Borders Direct Payment Agency on 01896 759700.

Take up of Direct Payments increasing

Borders Direct Payments are now supporting around 120 clients throughout the Borders.

Paperwork!

We have updated the template for employee contracts to improve clarity, so if anyone wants their employee contracts updated, please get in touch with us.

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