

# **BORDERS DIRECT PAYMENT AGENCY NEWS**

**April 2007**

## **Staff changes**

We are delighted to welcome Lucy Morrice as a new Project Worker to the team. Lucy will be working on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays approx 9.30am – 3pm.

## **DP rate change!**

With effect from 23 April 2007, DP recipients will receive an increase to the hourly rate. The rate will go up from £11.24 per hour to £11.60 per hour.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

- ❖ The increases will not be made until Scottish Borders Council has received your financial information form (FIF) as there may be other adjustments.
- ❖ If you are in receipt of respite money you will be asked to complete a FA1 form; again the rates will not be increased until the Council have this information.

**Both forms will have been sent out to clients by SBC at the end of March.**

- ❖ Clients receiving a Children's Service will not be required to complete the above forms.
- ❖ Some employers may wish to consider a pay rise for staff, if so, please let our payroll know. If you wish to discuss this, please contact us.
- ❖ If you are also in receipt of ILF and need to match fund any pay rises please contact us on 01896 759700 or Grace Smart (SBC ILF development worker) on 01896 848352.

## **Employers**

5 April is the end of the tax year. Please make sure you have paid over Tax and National Insurance to H M Revenue & Customs up to the end of March.

## **Training**

All training dates for Moving & Handling Courses are now currently booked up. We are presently waiting for details of new dates from late June/early July onwards. If you or your staff would like to participate in any training, please contact us, and we will try to source what you are looking for.

## **Paperwork**

As more clients come on to Direct Payments we would really appreciate receiving Direct Payment bank account statements on a regular basis. It is a condition of the Service Agreement for Direct Payments that bank statements are sent in to us each month. We are required to submit quarterly returns to the local authority (31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 30 December), as part of the financial monitoring process.

If you have not already done so, Bank statements to 31 March 2007, should be sent in to us as soon as possible.

If you have a problem in meeting the Service Agreement conditions, please contact us to discuss.

## **Men Only Carer's Group**

The Borders Carers Centre is currently in the process of setting up a Carer's Group for men only. This has come about in response to a demand from a number of male carers who are in touch with the Carer's Centre. As part of the setting up process, the Carer's Centre has produced a questionnaire. If anyone is interested in joining, please let us know, and we will send you a Carer's Centre questionnaire.

**Anderson's Chambers, Market Street, Galashiels, TD1 3AF**

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**Email: [borders.directpayment@virgin.net](mailto:borders.directpayment@virgin.net)**