



Welcome to the Autumn 2017 edition of the Dosh newsletter!

In this month's edition:

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- **Changes to PIP criteria**
- **Blue Badge Scheme – changes on eligibility under PIP.**
- **Financial Advocacy in Action**

Please contact steve.raw@dosh.org if Dosh can be of help to you and the people you support.

Steve Raw- Managing Director

Disclaimer: We have tried to ensure that the information in this pack is accurate. We will not accept liability for any loss, damage or inconvenience arising as a consequence of any use of the information.

The Dosh team



Steve Raw
Managing Director

**Named
Financial
Advocates**

Meike Beckford
Financial Advocacy
Manager

Michaela Le Bail
Notts / Lincs

Lesley Discombe
South West 1

Lizzie Elhamri
South West 2

Mnqobi Dube
Northants / Cambs

Stephanie Linton
Scotland

Sue Rees
North

Jane Richardson
Wales / West

Mike Kitcher
East Anglia

Maddy Hubbard
North West / London

Sarah Bolger
Yorkshire / Derbyshire

Sue Metelko
Dorset

Jill Norfield
Cambridgeshire

Bob Bye
Cambridgeshire

**Office
Team**

Peter Smith
New Business Advocate

Angela Atkin
Administrator (Mon-Wed)

Lisa Lett
Administrator (Wed-Fri)

Roxii Chlopek
Administrator

Boni Tsuro
Financial Accountant

Lia Herbert
Financial Assistant

Kerry Measures
Personal Assistant

Office Contact Details

Email: doshoffice@dosh.org

Phone: 0300 303 1288

Welcome to Lia, Bob and Kerry



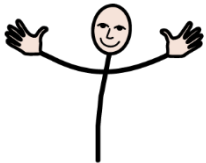
We have three new members in the Dosh team.

We are welcoming a team member into the Grantham office.

Lia started her year-long [Charity works](#) placement in

hello September and is settling into her new role as Finance assistant. She is looking forward to the year ahead and working with the great office team.

We are also saying hello to Bob, our new Named Financial Advocate in Cambridgeshire. He will be joining Jane, Mngqobi and Mike in supporting the growing number of people in that area.



welcome

We have been joined by Kerry, Steve's new PA. Kerry splits her time between Dosh and working in recruitment in social care.

Before this Kerry worked for ten years as a SCUBA diving instructor!

We are looking forward to working with our new team members and excited that the Dosh team is growing.

We are recruiting a non-executive director

As we mentioned in our Summer Newsletter, we are looking to recruit a non-executive director. If you know somebody with a learning disability who may be interested, or if you are interested yourself, please contact Steve Raw on steve.raw@dosh.org.

Dosh's 10th anniversary



Dosh turned 10 in November and we are launching a year of celebrations! To start us off, our Managing Director for 8 of those 10 years has written about his passion for Dosh, some of his highlights and why he loves the work he does.



Love the job you are in – or why I love working for Dosh

One of my mentors is my wife Joyce, we call her the Oracle. Why? Because she is always right. An example of one of her gems was back in 1996 when she said to me: “Steve, you are a long time at work so it is important you do something you love and enjoy” – that really focused me on deciding what I was going to do as I left the Army (my first career).

Fast forward to this week, on the train coming home from the Dosh Strategy Day in London, I had the best day, working with some incredibly talented, knowledgeable and experienced people on how we could support people with learning disabilities in the next 10 years, and I was buzzing. I looked at my fellow commuters, I may be being unfair but they looked weary. For me though, this is a second career which has lasted 21 years so far and one that I am still incredibly passionate about.

For the last eight years I have had the good fortune of being the Managing Director for Dosh. I told ‘Learning Disability Today’ magazine in their ‘Me and My job’ series the following:

- What would be your dream job? “I am already doing it – I love what I do everyday”

- What is your ambition? “I reached my professional ambition when I became MD for Dosh”

So why do I love my job? I enjoy being able to be involved in all aspects of our company and our support which includes:

- Personally supporting a person with learning disabilities; being part of his Circle of Support and being involved in all aspects of his life.
- Building a winning team which is known for having a “can do” attitude and seeking out and recruiting talented individuals to our company
- Working with support providers (60 at the last count!) and local authorities, especially giving presentations (I love talking about Dosh)
- Travelling – Yes I actually like doing all that driving across England, Scotland and Wales. I get to see some amazing countryside
- Project managing new opportunities. We have just started a new project within Dosh as we gear up to support 1000 people.
- Spending time with great colleagues. Last Friday I was in the grounds of Bury St Edmunds Cathedral for a 1-1 with one of the team - what a way to finish the week!!
- And the important part of being MD – Strategic Management. Business Planning! Thinking and planning our direction which includes our growth, marketing and always doing something new.

Doing stuff that you have a passion for helps you to maintain and have stronger mental health. In your quieter moments, acknowledging that you are doing something that you are passionate about can give you a sense of well-being and contentment.



With passion comes a high level of enthusiasm for what you do. I have found this to be contagious - not only do your friends benefit, but also your family.

"Passion is energy. Feel the power that comes from focusing on what excites you."

Oprah Winfrey

Here my top 5 tips for finding your passion:

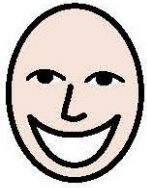
1. What do you have strong emotions for – make them visual so write them down, better still draw a picture for each one
2. You need to find something that has a ‘purpose’: will it make a difference in another person’s life?
3. Think about what you are good at, would it pay you a living too? When you have both, not only do you find your passion you feel successful.
4. What excites you: what would make you get out of bed earlier than you really need to? I fling the bed sheets back at 5am every morning, yep even the weekends, I can’t wait to start my day.
5. Dream Big "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." -Harriet Tubman

"There is no passion to be found playing small--in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living."

Read the full blog at: www.dosh.org/dosh-is-10-love-the-job/

By Steve Raw, Managing Director

Annual Review 2017: The Results!



happy

We are really pleased to share with you another successful year of results from our Annual Review. They showed that **97% of people we support are happy with their support from Dosh!**



“I trust Dosh and I'm happy with everything. I can have my train trips whenever I want”

We also checked that we were meeting the [Dosh Promise](#) standards. People also told us that:

- ✓ They can **choose** how they spend their money to do the things they want (94%)
- ✓ Their money plan includes all the things they **enjoy** doing (95%)
- ✓ Their local financial advocate visits them regularly (90%)
- ✓ They get the information they need and **understand** from Dosh (96%)

“My advocate is extremely helpful and is always there when we need her.”

What are we working on?



improve

Even though the results were very good, we know we can keep getting better – as our MD Steve always says, Dosh has momentum! Our results showed that not everyone uses their money plan regularly. We also know getting best interest decisions and payments working well and quickly is always a challenge.

In 2017-18 we want to keep getting better, so we will:

- ✓ Keep supporting teams to complete BID forms
- ✓ Review our communication and accessible information - can we help more people to understand their money?
- ✓ Work with people to use their money plan more regularly if they want
- ✓ Launch Project 1000 to upgrade our systems and processes as we grow

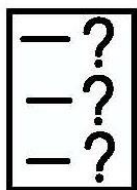
“There’s always someone to talk to - Dosh staff are accessible”

Overall, we are really pleased that through Dosh support, people say they are able to achieve their goals and live the life they want. This is our goal as financial advocates – to support people to be more independent and have more control over their money. If you have any ideas about how we can keep getting better and find new ways to enable people to manage their money, please get in touch.

“Our advocate is really passionate about fighting for what is right for people we support”

About the review

The Annual Review checks that we are meeting the Dosh Promise standards and that people are happy with our support. We also use it to find out how we can improve and what we should work on next year.



survey

The results include survey feedback from people supported by Dosh, their family, friends, support teams and social workers. They also include the results of the annual review meetings advocates held with each person they support.

We visited people we support between March and June 2017 to complete our annual review and we are pleased that 70% of the people

we support completed this (up from 59% in 2016). People supported and their circles of support also completed a survey to tell us what they thought of Dosh.

You can download the more detailed results from our website.

By Meike Beckford, Financial Advocacy Manager

Housing Benefit in supported housing



rent

Whilst most people who get Housing Benefit have their award capped at [‘Local Housing Allowance’ \(LHA\) rates](#) – calculated at the level of the cheapest 30% of rent in an area – supported housing has always been exempt from this.

People who rent from a charity or housing association and receive care and support often have rent that is far higher than the local average. Supported housing rents can also include services such as tenancy support, council tax, gardening and window cleaning.

In 2016, the government announced plans to cap the amount of benefit for supported housing at LHA rates. This could have seen people in supported housing face a shortfall in rent of up to £300 per week.

The plans were initially delayed for a year after many people expressed concerns about the change. New plans have just been announced to scrap that proposal and instead introduce a new approach which will make sure 100% of housing costs continue to be funded through the welfare system.

You can read more about the new proposals on the government website

By Maddy Hubbard, Financial Advocate for the North West/London

Changes to PIP criteria



benefits

Case law around benefits changes regularly, so we make sure we keep on top of this and share information which could help the people we support. [A recent court](#) ruling on Personal Independence Payment (PIP) brings good news for some people who may struggle with safety.



Previously, to qualify as having difficulty in one of the [PIP criteria](#) (such as cooking a meal, bathing or managing your money), you had to be affected for more than 50% of the time.

The court ruling changes what it means for a risk of harm to be 'likely'. Instead of having to be 'more likely than not', the DWP have to take into account both how likely the harm is and how serious the consequences would be. For example, someone with epilepsy might not have a fit on 50% of days, but they still need to be supervised at all times when doing activities such as cooking or bathing. The risk of harm is serious enough that they can't safely do the activity without support.

The change will help people with conditions which impact on their safety seriously but infrequently. The DWP estimates around 10,000 people will be better off by £70-90 per week. Dosh advocates will be reviewing the PIP awards of the people we support to see if any of them could benefit, but if you think you could be better off thanks to the ruling then please get in touch. We would be happy to discuss options such as a [Money Check](#).

To learn more, you can read the updated [DWP guidance here](#) and a useful summary on the [Benefits & Work website](#)

By Maddy Hubbard, Financial Advocate for the North West/London

Blue Badge Scheme – changes on eligibility under PIP.



park

The Blue Badge scheme is to help people with severe mobility problems to park close to their destination. This is a government scheme that is managed by Local Authorities. Each Blue Badge lasts for 3 years and shows the expiry date on the badge.

What is the problem?

All applications are treated as new applications and a full assessment is done. Many individuals who are now getting Personal Independence Payment are having their Blue Badge renewal applications refused because the assessment rules for PIP are different to Disability Living Allowance.

Entitlement criteria to get a Blue Badge.

There are certain conditions that each applicant must meet to be able to get a Blue Badge

These are:-

- You are entitled to the Higher Rate of the Mobility Component for Disability Living Allowance (DLA).
- You get 8 points or more in the Moving Around category for Personal Independence Payment (PIP).
- You get a war pensioners mobility supplement
- You are registered blind (not partially sighted as this does not qualify)

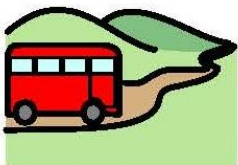
- You can also claim and provide medical evidence if you have a permanent and substantial disability which means you are unable to walk or have considerable difficulty in walking.

What has changed from DLA (Disability Living Allowance) to PIP (Personal Independence Payment)?

Under DLA, a person was either entitled to the higher rate for the Mobility Component or not. It was just one award and this enabled the individual to qualify for a Blue Badge. There are now 2 elements in PIP when the DWP consider the mobility of the person claiming.

PIP is calculated by giving points for each part where the individual meets the criteria for the benefit:

1. Planning and following journeys.



This part looks at the help and support needed to go out. It focusses on the mental capacity and psychological elements of going out.

journey

This section is NOT taken into account when deciding whether to grant a Blue Badge.

2. Moving around.

This part looks at the physical side of going out and the physical capabilities of standing and moving around. To get a Blue Badge, you must be awarded 8 points or more in this part of the assessment.

So you may still get the Enhanced Rate of the Mobility part of PIP but are not eligible for a Blue Badge as you are physically capable of walking.

When will this affect me?



If you are a pensioner and getting pensioner benefits then you will stay on DLA and so your Blue Badge should not be affected by your benefit award.

benefits

If you are between the ages of 16-64 and are currently getting DLA, at some point in the near future, the DWP will write to you to ask you to claim PIP. You have no choice as your DLA will stop.

If you do not qualify for 8 points or more when assessed for Moving Around, then it's possible that you will be refused a blue badge when you come to renew.

This does differ from Local Authority to Local Authority but most are changing their rules to take into account the changes in PIP. Please ask your Dosh Named Financial Advocate if you want more information

By Sue Rees, Financial Advocate for the North

Financial Advocacy in Action

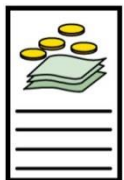


As always, we would like to take this opportunity to share a story of the impact the Dosh team are making. The names of the people have all been changed.

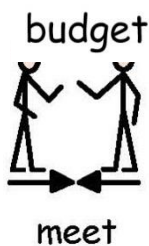
Ben's Story



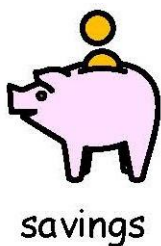
Before Ben was supported by Dosh he found managing his money difficult and needed his mum to help with his money so he didn't spend it all.



Ben's Financial Advocate helped him learn about budgeting and together they worked towards Ben being more independent with his money



Ben enjoys working with his advocate as he feels he is getting personal support with his money as she comes to have meetings with him face to face.



With help from the Prince's Trust Ben found a job and has started a course at university. He still uses everything he has learnt about budgeting to help him save money.



Ben is now more confident in managing his money. He runs his own photography business and has got better at keeping receipts, managing his savings and understanding exchange rates. He has also planned a holiday to Australia!

Please find links to the full story [here](#).