

PRESS RELEASE

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No5 Young People celebrates commitment to paying a wage for real living

No5 Young People are delighted to be accredited as a Living Wage Employer which means they are committed to pay the real Living Wage and deliver a fair day's pay for a hard day's work.

Alyson Brickley, Director at No 5 said: "No5 Young People value our staff and contractors and convey this in many ways, wage being one. Even though we are a charity, we feel it's important to pay a real living wage to cover real living costs. We all have bills to pay, food to buy and a roof to keep over our heads!"

Alyson went on to explain: "Our Living Wage commitment will see everyone working at No5 receive a minimum hourly wage of £9.00. This hourly rate is reviewed annually and we are committed to paying it if it goes up and although we have six months to do this we would do immediately! This is significantly higher than the government national minimum for over 25s, which is currently £8.21 per hour."

The real Living Wage is the only rate calculated according to the costs of living. It provides a voluntary benchmark for employers that wish to ensure their staff earn a wage they can live on, not just the government minimum.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

About No 5 Young People

1. No 5 Young People charity, established in 1971, is based in central Reading and focuses on providing counselling, outreach, and preventative mental health services to young people aged 10-25 years, their parents/carers who live, work or study in the RG postcode. We also deliver professional courses for counsellors and mental health training in organisations.
2. Young people do not need a referral from a health professional in order to access our services; they can just contact us directly via telephone, text and email.
3. We provide up to 20 sessions of free, confidential, professional counselling to each young person we support.
4. Our vision is for a world that does not stigmatise children and young people's mental health and accepts it as a normal part of human development.
5. For more information visit <http://no5.org.uk/>
6. Logo for The Living Wage Foundation and No5 attached.

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About the Living Wage

The real Living Wage is the only rate calculated according to what people need to make ends meet. It provides a voluntary benchmark for employers that choose to take a stand by ensuring their staff earn a wage that meets the costs and pressures they face in their everyday lives.

The UK Living Wage is currently £9.00 per hour. There is a separate London Living Wage rate of £10.55 per hour to reflect the higher costs of transport, childcare and housing in the capital. These figures are calculated annually by the Resolution Foundation and overseen by the [Living Wage Commission](#), based on the best available evidence on living standards in London and the UK.

The Living Wage Foundation is the organisation at the heart of the movement of businesses, organisations and individuals who campaign for the simple idea that a hard day's work deserves a fair day's pay. The Living Wage Foundation receives guidance and advice from the Living Wage Advisory Council. The Foundation is supported by our principal partners: Aviva; IKEA; Joseph Rowntree Foundation; KPMG; Linklaters; Nationwide; Nestle; Resolution Foundation; Oxfam; Trust for London; People's Health Trust; and Queen Mary University of London.

What about the Government's national living wage?

In July 2015 the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the UK Government would introduce a compulsory 'national living wage'. This new government rate is a new minimum wage rate for staff over 25 years old. It was introduced in April 2016 and as of April 2019 it is £8.21 per hour for those aged 25 and over, £7.70 for those aged 21–24, £6.15 for ages 16–20. The rate is ***different*** to the Living Wage rates calculated by the Living Wage Foundation. The government rate is based on median earnings while the Living Wage Foundation rates are calculated according to the cost of living in London and the UK.