

Alternative 'Easy-Read' Consultation Letter

On 17 December, Haringey Council Cabinet member for health and wellbeing, Peter Morton, sent an 'easy-read' letter about the Council's budget plans. Aimed at the people most likely to be affected by the proposed cuts, it contains no information whatsoever about them. 'This is called a public consultation' writes Mr Morton. Here is an alternative, more informative, letter:

Dear Sir/Madam,

Haringey Council is very short of money so we have decided to cut services, especially for people with learning disabilities.

We plan to close Linden House residential home and three out of four day centres – including the only one for people with autism.

We aim to cut spending on home care so that people will have to rely on their families and neighbours.

We have targeted people with learning disabilities because we believe that they will not make much of a fuss and because most people do not much care what happens to them.

The council wants to encourage people with disabilities to go out to work or look after themselves.

We are planning to cut the number of social workers who protect vulnerable adults by a quarter.

If things go wrong, people with challenging behaviour will be moved to a far-away place like Winterbourne View, where they may be locked up and drugged, neglected and abused.

We have announced our plans over Christmas and kept discussion as short as possible so that we can push these cuts through without attracting much attention.

This is called a public consultation.

Yours sincerely...