

Thank you for your emails regarding the budget proposals, and the work you have undertaken on researching reablement.

None of us would choose to be setting out proposals that mean £70 million of savings over the next three years on top of savings of £117 million we have had to make since 2010 but that is the reality of the situation that Haringey, along with the rest of local government, must face. We did feel it important to put together a detailed three-year budget just so that people can be very clear about the future – what we can do, what we can't do and where the gaps are so that we can start to have a proper debate about what we should do with our every diminishing resources.

I do, however, have to be very clear, and this was discussed at all of the consultation meetings, that:

- This is high level consultation on the draft corporate plan and the medium term financial plan and not detailed consultation on any proposals.
- Promoting independence is a principle underpinning many of the proposals and if any are agreed more detailed proposals will be developed.
- Most importantly, we are not proposing reablement for all. We recognise that there are individuals with complex needs for whom reablement will not be an option. Most home care reablement services are open to people aged over 18 but the majority of the service users are older people. Reablement is very much about maximising people's independence and focuses on daily living activity.
- Enablement, which is different from reablement, is the approach we take, and would continue to take for younger adults. Enablement is usually longer term and directed to younger adults with mental health, physical, and or learning disabilities, including autism. This approach is usually about developing life skills so that people can engage safely in aspects of community life, and develop goals to improve health and quality of life.

The concerns expressed in your emails relating to the proposed changes have been heard and understood, and I can assure you that the impact of the cuts is also something that both officers and Members share. The feedback regarding the detailed issues will be considered as part of the consultation process, the outcome of which will be used to inform and assist Councillors in their decision-making and agreement of the budget in February 2015.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Peter Morton

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

Labour Councillor for St Ann's ward