

# HARINGEY ALLIANCE FOR PUBLIC SERVICES

***NO to another £70m cuts to our vital local public services & jobs!***

## Support the current campaigns and protests

**\*\*\* 60 union members and community activists attended a UNISON open meeting to discuss working together to oppose the draconian cuts.** UNISON believe these unprecedented cuts require a united and strong response, and are fully backing the Haringey Alliance and the planned protests. They are distributing 10,000 trade union leaflets to back the February protests. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/779628222084610/>

**\*\*\* Save Our Children's Centres campaign** The Council is currently 'consulting' on a plan to close children's centres and cut the budget for early years provision in Haringey by £1.44m over three years. This includes threats to Haringey's three nursery schools (Woodlands Park, Rowland Hill and Pembury House), and also cutting government-funded childcare subsidies. In response parents, governors and concerned residents have got together to challenge this. The Children's Centres Alliance is asking everyone, parents, parents to be, grandparents and residents to join in, and to respond to the consultation. Please go to our Facebook page and use Twitter and any other networks you are part of to spread the word. [#saveourchildrenscentres](https://www.facebook.com/haringeychildrenscentresalliance) <https://www.facebook.com/haringeychildrenscentresalliance>

**\*\*\* Protest against the taxation of benefits by Councils - scrap the bills and the summons to court!**

20 people demonstrated on Tuesday 6th January, 9.30am at Apex House, 820 Seven Sisters Road, N15 5PQ. It was called by Taxpayers Against Poverty. In December Haringey Council sent thousands of summons to local residents unable to afford Council Tax bills, mainly to the poorest Haringey residents including those trying to survive on inadequate welfare benefits. The summons are for court hearings on 7th January but council officials have called on late and non payers "to discuss your circumstances and see if there is any more we can do to help you". *Yes there is - scrap the bills and the summons!*

**\*\*\* Support Chestnuts Community Centre** The Centre is a vibrant hub for 42 local, mostly black and minority ethnic organisations. They are campaigning to keep it open as a community-led resource for local people after 25 yrs being managed by the community. <https://www.facebook.com/chestnutscommunity> Also: [www.ourtottenham.org.uk](http://www.ourtottenham.org.uk)

**\*\*\* Defend our local Council Housing estates under threat of demolitions, 'redevelopment' and privatisation** The campaign to defend our estates from the threat of demolitions and 'redevelopment' (ie privatisation and gentrification) will continue throughout 2015. The campaign distributed tens of thousands of leaflets and newsletters, and held many estate-based residents' meetings during 2014 to counter Council propaganda and 'consultation' exercises. Next meeting on Thursday February 12th, 6.30pm @ North London Community House, 22 Moorefield Road, N17 6PY. Contact [haringey\\_dch@outlook.com](mailto:haringey_dch@outlook.com) [www.facebook.com/HDCHpage](https://www.facebook.com/HDCHpage)

**\*\*\* Defend local youth services and facilities** The campaign has a Twitter account @SaveHaringeyYS Please sign their petition. [www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-bruce-grove-youth-centre-haringey-youth](http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-bruce-grove-youth-centre-haringey-youth)

**\*\*\* Save Marcus Garvey Library in Tottenham - sign the online petition**

<https://www.change.org/p/tell-haringey-council-to-save-tottenham-s-marcus-garvey-library>

We are protesting against the council's (as yet not officially announced) plans for severe cuts to Marcus Garvey library. You have probably already heard about these. But in case you haven't.... They plan to re-house the council offices from Apex house onto the 1st floor of the library and so we will lose one floor and they will completely restructure (i.e. cut) the remaining resources, staff, activities etc. We are a group of local mums and library users who want to make sure this doesn't happen.

**\*\*\* Show Haringey Council the Red Card – social care services users' campaign**

Users of Haringey Council social care services attended consultation meetings in January to voice their fears for the future, following proposals for three years of deep cuts in adult services. An online petition against the cuts to services for vulnerable adults has been signed by over 3000 people in the first 2 days.

**\*\*\* Please sign the petition to Save our Autism Services in Haringey**

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-our-autism-services-in-haringey>

# What can we all do ?

- \* **Have your say in the Council's so-called 'consultations'** as it's important that people speak out AGAINST ALL CUTS at every opportunity
- \* **Support and get involved in the many local campaigns, and sign their petitions etc [See over]**  
Or set up your own to defend the services and facilities you care about.
- \* **Write to your councillors, MPs, and the local press.** Get your residents' group, pensioners' group, carers' group, trade union to do so too. Also demand Parliamentary candidates for the 2015 election say where they stand and support the campaigns to defend all services.

## What's the solution ?

- \* **The Council could just say NO.** If one Council says that, it might just get 'taken over' by government commissioners like a 'failing' school. But if 10, 50, or 100 Councils say that, what then? It's not just Haringey – only if the public and councillors across London and the country stand up to the government will they back down. Talk to friends and relatives in other areas; share ideas how we can fight this.
- \* **The Council could set a budget for one year only, not 3 years** – and tell whoever wins the election in May (eg Labour) they must do differently. The national debt is not ours – it's the debt of the bankers and the rich tax-dodgers! Apparently this rich country can fund Trident and one of the lowest corporation tax rates in the western world, but not vital services for ordinary people.
- \* **The Council could use some of its reserves to keep services going** – they have almost £96million. For 2015 they have set aside over £9 million for categories they never thought were needed before, £2 million for 'supporting people into work' and over £7 million to 'deal with the volatility around the collection of Council Tax'!! And ££millions are squandered on greedy £500-a-day consultants.
- \* **They could raise council tax for the richest residents** and use the proceeds to re-instate council tax benefit as well as keep services going.
- \* **They could press for emergency powers at London level** eg. to tax landlords who leave homes empty or exploit tenants.

Instead they give us fibs about making a 'stronger Haringey' and give only till 18th January for a 'consultation'. Let's step up the protests and opposition.

## HARINGEY SAYS 'NO TO CUTS!'

Supported by local community networks, trades unions, service user campaigns, & political organisations

**LOBBY: Tuesday 10th February, 5.30pm**

Lobby the Council's cabinet meeting - Outside the Civic Centre, High Rd N22

**DEMONSTRATION: Monday 23rd February, 5.30pm**

5.30pm Assemble at Ducketts Common - March through Wood Green to the civic centre

6.30pm: rally outside full council meeting

Tell your friends/neighbours/workmates. Bring banners, placards, pots and spoons to make a BIG NOISE

### Opposition is growing everywhere - Doing nothing is not an option!

The Haringey Alliance for Public Services (HAPS) is a network open to all those living or working in Haringey. We promote communication and co-ordination, mutual aid and solidarity among all those affected by cuts. Supporters include Haringey Forum for Older People, Haringey UNISON, Haringey Federation of Residents Associations, Haringey Trades Union Council, Service User campaigns, Haringey UNITE, Trade Union and Socialist Coalition, Haringey Green Party, 38 Degrees and many people who need or work in local social care services. Why not get involved?