

Statement by Mark Lever, Chief Executive of the National Autistic Society

8 December 2014

“We are deeply concerned by the proposals and the devastating and irreversible impact they will have on Haringey’s most vulnerable adults with autism and their carers.

“Most worrying are the cuts to three out of four of the borough's day services, including the only autism-specific service in Haringey, and reductions to care packages reserved for those with the most complex and challenging needs. These changes will deprive many local people with autism of their main link to their community, increasing their social of isolation and risking their mental health.

“To make matters worse, local families are being asked to pick up the slack, which will probably mean dropping out of work to become full-time carers. But what happens to those individuals whose families can’t afford to do this? Or those who don’t have families at all?

“Haringey Council must listen to local families and reverse its proposals or face subjecting the most vulnerable residents of the borough to a lifetime of hardship.”