

Re: Proposed cuts in Haringey services for people with autism and learning disabilities

Dear Councillor,

I am writing to you as my local councillor in Stroud Green because of my concern at the proposals in Haringey's corporate budget plan to impose drastic cuts in adult social care services. I am the older brother of a young man who suffers from autism and learning disabilities and he is very reliant on the services that are currently provided, as are many other people (young and old) who live across the borough. As someone who has worked as a teacher in secondary schools in Camden, Wood Green and now Kilburn I am aware of the difficulties facing parents and siblings who are attempting to care for relatives who suffer from learning difficulties. The cuts that are proposed to services which are not adequate at the moment will put increasing pressure on families and will lead to depression and anxiety.

I understand there are financial concerns across the nation at this time (as there has been for nearly a decade) and this is reflected with the proposed cuts to Haringey's services. But resolving them by cutting services to the most vulnerable is cowardly, wrong and if we're all honest the easy way out. Shutting three out of four day care centres will be very problematic as it will lead to families having to pay for cheaper home care which will lead to their loved ones being looked after by people with little or no experience. The proposed cut of 25% to people with learning disabilities is unjust as many people who suffer from these disabilities have already been affected by major cuts to pay packages.

These cuts will have a harmful impact on an already struggling community. These cuts will lead to the pain of both families and carers as families will be put under added pressure and individuals will be poorly looked after. I appeal to you to not ignore the needs of the learning disabled in your community. Many of the people I speak about (including my own family member) are unable to speak for themselves so it is difficult to see these cuts as anything other than a method to save money at the expense of a group who will not protest. You must appeal to the council to reconsider or you will create an already fractured community to become completely broken.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Fitzpatrick