

Save Autism Services Haringey

People with autism and learning disabilities matter

Appeal to Councillors: 'Building a Stronger Haringey' – not on the backs of the most vulnerable

Haringey councillors are about to vote on a budget that will have a devastating impact on some of the borough's most vulnerable residents. This will do irreversible damage to services and have detrimental consequences for the elderly, those with dementia, learning disabilities, mental health problems and other complex needs.

The Council plans to cut adult social care by £30m, closing three out of four day centres, reducing care packages by £10m and cutting social workers by 25%. The Council plans to 'review the appropriateness of care packages through a reablement approach', but research shows that reablement works only for selected groups with limited physical disabilities.

Professor Caroline Glendinning, of the Social Policy Research Unit at the University of York, conducted a major study of reablement in several local authorities. She says that her research 'provides no evidence whatsoever about the effectiveness of reablement approaches for people with autism, learning disabilities or complex needs and no evidence to support reconfigurations of services for these groups'.

Haringey's public consultation has been limited to 19 working days and a few ill-prepared meetings. Yet residents have made clear their fears – and their anger – over these proposals.

- People with learning disabilities told Councillors and Council officials how they value day centres and other services and held up red cards at one meeting to show their rejection of Council plans.
- Family carers expressed their concerns about relatives with dementia, autism, learning disabilities and other complex needs and asked the Council to think again.

Haringey's Corporate Plan aspires towards 'Building a Stronger Haringey' – but it is shameful that the Council should seek to achieve this at the expense of some of the weakest people in the borough.

We are asking you to:

- Vote against these budget plans;
- Reject cuts in day centres, care packages and social work staff;
- Extend the consultation period.

Save Autism Services Haringey: People with Autism and Learning Difficulties Matter 15 January 2015. Contact Mary Langan: marylangan@virginmedia.com

