

# dasl\*

disability advice service lambeth

Who we are and where we're going

Strategic Plan

# 2018 - 2021



## We are stronger together

# Our Vision

An inclusive society in which diversity is valued and equal rights and opportunities are enjoyed by all

## Who we are

**dasl** is a local, user led organisation controlled by Disabled people

We are a member organisation because we believe that **we are stronger together**

We work in Lambeth and other London boroughs so that as Disabled people we can



achieve our legal rights



be in control of our lives



be active in our communities



grow our skills and fulfil our ambitions



have a voice and influence change

# What makes dasl special

We are a Disabled people's Organisation and as such benefit from the lived experience of our Disabled trustees, staff and volunteers

*"dasl is a champion of marginalised groups"*

*"I like coming to the peer support group, I feel safe to be able to talk about issues with you"*

We have provided high quality services for Disabled people in Lambeth since 2001

We support self-empowerment so people can take control of their own lives

*"dasl understand and respond to my unique concerns. I am valued for who I am"*

*"I was listened to, given productive advice that was clear and consistent in a professional manner"*

We respect and value people's individuality and differences and offer holistic and flexible support

We try new ideas and pilot projects to help us reach more Disabled people

*"dasl are actively involved from start to end on social issues that significantly affect family life and disability issues"*

## What we do

We offer services to anyone in Lambeth who is a Disabled person, has long-term ill-health, lives with mental health issues, is an unpaid carer or is aged over 55

A number of our services are provided in partnership with Age UK Lambeth, Carers Hub Lambeth and Royal Association for Deaf People in the Independent Living and Carers' Partnership



## What we offer



### Professional Advocacy

We support people to speak up and have a say about things that are important to them



### Advice and Information

We provide information and advice on a wide range of issues including welfare benefits, debt and housing



### Direct Payments Support

We provide information, advice and training to people receiving direct payments



## **Sport and Physical Activity**

Our IntoSport Lambeth project allows Disabled people to become more physically active as part of their lives



## **Community Development**

We provide advice and support to engage local Disabled people in issues affecting them, working to improve access and make other services more inclusive of Disabled people



## **Disability Hate Crime Support**

We offer advocacy support to people experiencing disability hate crime while raising the awareness of the issue, co-ordinating the Lambeth Disability Hate Crime Partnership and hosting the Hate Crime Reporting Centre at "we are 336"



## **London Stroke Choir**

Since 2013 we have developed the successful London Stroke Choir. Open to all stroke survivors across London our choir aims to reduce isolation and allow people to re-find their voice and share their experience



## **Local voice**

Through consultations and campaigns we seek to support the voices of Disabled people to influence local policy to address unmet needs and increase Disabled people's participation in the life of Lambeth

# Moving forward

Through discussion and consultation with our staff, our members and the people who use our services as well as looking at the local environment we have identified key priorities for moving forward



## Maintain and expand our unique and essential services

We aim to do this with specific focus on

Ensuring the sustainability of our **Specialist Advice Service**, maintaining the Advice Quality Standard and seeking investment into this essential service

Maintaining and developing our **Advocacy Service** and securing our position as the provider of Care Act Advocacy in Lambeth beyond 2020

Developing the **Lambeth Disability Hate Crime Partnership** and its services, aiming to increase the capacity of our advocacy and support service

Expanding our **Direct Payments Support Service** to cover personal health budgets, support planning and brokerage, training for employers and personal assistant support



Developing our **Into Sport** project, seeking funding to enable us to reach more groups such as those with mental health issues and making **“we are 336”** a community focus for wellbeing

Continuing our work with community partners to increase social and cultural opportunities for Disabled people, increase opportunities for **peer support** and **volunteering** and further develop **“we are 336”** as a local resource for Disabled and older people and carers



## **Widen our range of services to address unmet needs**

We wish to address identified gaps in local services with a focus on

Expanding our information and advice services to **Disabled children** and **young people** around Special Educational Needs and transition. Developing participation work to support positive self identity, confidence and self advocacy

Working with **Inclusion London** to develop a wider offer for working Disabled people and those seeking employment

Raising awareness of **Digital Inclusion** and working to remove barriers to Disabled people's access to digital resources and services



## Develop our role in enhancing the collective voice and influence of local Disabled people

We will engage with the Council in the development of a **Lambeth Disability Reference Group** as a focus for supporting the voice, representation and participation of Disabled people in service planning and consultation

We will work closely with **Inclusion London, Operation Disabled Vote** and other local user led disability groups to campaign on issues such as the erosion of rights and changes in legislation that impact the lives of Disabled people

## Strengthen dasl to make us more efficient and sustainable

We will make improvements to how dasl operates, including our governance, fundraising, communications and information technology. This will help us to achieve our priorities and continue making a real difference in Lambeth



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