

*** disability advice service lambeth**



Summer 2011

The Mole

News and information for disabled people in Lambeth

IN THIS ISSUE ...

Focus on cuts to services for disabled people (pages 4,5,8)



From this ...



... to this?



Plans for a Lambeth Centre for Independent Living and Lambeth Accord move forward (pages 6-7)

independent living for disabled people

DASL Tightens its Belt

In common with many Lambeth voluntary organisations DASL has been feeling the effects of cuts in Council funding. After 6 years the contract for our User Involvement Service for Disabled and Older People (provided jointly with Age UK Lambeth since 2007) came to an end

in March. We have also had a 10% reduction in the funding for our Direct Payments Support Service. Despite this, and the uncertainties which lie ahead, we are maintaining our key services to disabled people and carers and will continue to do our best for existing and new clients



DASL members listen to debate at the AGM

DASL's AGM

Our 9th AGM (above) took place on 3rd December. It was very well attended and, after the business section of the meeting, we had some lively discussions about the development of a Lambeth Centre for Independent Living (see page 6 for more). Our Management Committee was elected and, since the AGM, the officers have been chosen. Our trustees for 2011 are: Ebenezer Akinsanmi (Chair), Judy Fink (Vice Chair), Trevor Critchley (Treasurer), Michelle Esezobor (Secretary). Other members are: Ameena Berkowitz, Susan Hamilton, Boz Borowy and Isabelle Clement.

Issue contents

DASL news	2-3
The Cuts	4-5
Lambeth Centre for Independent Living	6-7
Lambeth Consultations	8
Pan-Disability Forum	9
Carers Week	9
DASL Volunteer Programme	10
Notice Board	11
How to contact us	12

Staff Changes at DASL

There have been a number of changes in DASL's staff team.



Samaya Boutopoulou, our Information Worker since 2008, left in April to pursue a career as a healer and meditation teacher.

Jacqui Aitken joined us from Lambeth Carers as our first Carers' Enquiry Line Worker when the Carers' Hub Lambeth service was set up in January 2010. In May she left to follow a long held ambition to live in Spain.



We thank Samaya and Jacqui for their contributions to DASL and wish them both the very best for the future.



Meanwhile, we were very pleased that Richard Farnos was able to succeed Samaya as our Information Worker when the funding for his post

as User Involvement Worker ended and we welcome him to his new role.

Mole to be Revamped

Over the summer we plan to have a good hard look at The Mole with the view to giving it a face-lift. We hope to explore a range of changes from format to font and, of course, content.



As a reader of the magazine your views and opinions are greatly valued. For example would you be happy for the

Mole to get smaller from A4 to A5 but with the number of pages to increase from 12 to 24? How about the font - do you prefer the current Comic Sans or Century Gothic?

And what about content? Are there issues that we don't cover that you would like to have included? Would you like fewer but longer articles that went into a subject more in depth? And are there sections in the Mole that we could do without?

We plan to run at least one workshop to explore the Mole's future, so if you would like to attend or have any strong opinions that you would like to share, Richard Farnos would love to hear from you either through the Enquiry Line or by email or post (details on the back page)

National and Local Cuts Hit Disabled People

Disabled people are in the frontline of public services cuts – nationally and locally. Many are living in fear of huge cuts to essential benefits. Over 700,000 could see their Disability Living Allowance reduced or removed. Taking DLA mobility payments away from disabled people living in residential care could trap many in their own homes. Cutting off payments of contributory Employment and Support Allowance after a year will make life more difficult for people struggling to get back into work. The total cuts will mean an estimated £9 billion loss to families' incomes over the next four years, on top of cuts to many local care and support services.

Locally Lambeth Council has made cuts of £37 million in 2011/12, hitting hard many services that disabled people rely on. This has included a 100% cut to the pioneering

Photo: Guardian (Sarah Lee)



People First Lambeth self-advocacy organisation for adults with learning disabilities and loss of funding for many voluntary organisations in the borough. The Council is consulting on proposals for other cuts which could abolish discretionary freedom passes for mental health service users, and reduce the benefits of the Taxicard scheme – and on a new system for charging for social care services. On these pages and page 8 you can find out how you can get involved.

Lambeth SOS

Lambeth Save Our Services is an umbrella group of local trade unionists, community organisations and students formed in 2010 to oppose cuts in jobs and services in Lambeth. It is not controlled by any political party, and welcomes any individuals or organisations that agree with their aims. They hold open organising meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at the Vida Walsh Centre 2b Saltoun Road SW2 1EP. You can also keep in touch by joining their email group – contact lambethsaveourservices@gmail.com



National and Local Cuts Hit Disabled People



Lambeth LINK is an independent network whose role is to give local people a say in health and social care services in the borough.

The LINK wants to highlight the impact of Council spending cuts and reorganisation of the NHS on individuals and sections of the community and use their powers to feed this information back to the Council and NHS Lambeth.

They would like to hear about your experience of cuts in Lambeth health and social care services by completing the impact monitoring form which can be found on their website: www.lambethlink.org.uk/Documents_home, You can also find

out more by ringing the LINK Team on 020 7274 8522 or email: waiha@ageuklambeth.org.uk

Hardest Hit Campaign

The Hardest Hit campaign was formed to fight against cuts in disability benefits and is organised jointly by the Disability Benefits Consortium and the UK Disabled



People's Council. On 11th May over 5,000 disabled people protested in London. Find out more at thehardesthit.wordpress.com

Disabled People Against The Cuts

Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC) was formed by a group of disabled people in 2010. It was led by disabled people under the name of The Disabled Peoples' Protest. DPAC is for everyone who believes that disabled people should have full human rights and equality. In May it organised a week of protests against Atos Origin, the private company contracted to carry out 'work capability assessments' for the Government, The Lambeth Pan-Disability Forum is an affiliated member or DPAC can be contacted directly through their website: www.dpac.uk.net



Lambeth's Centre for Independent Living

The consultation programme on the development of a Centre for Independent Living (CIL) in Lambeth ended at a packed meeting on the 29th March 2011.

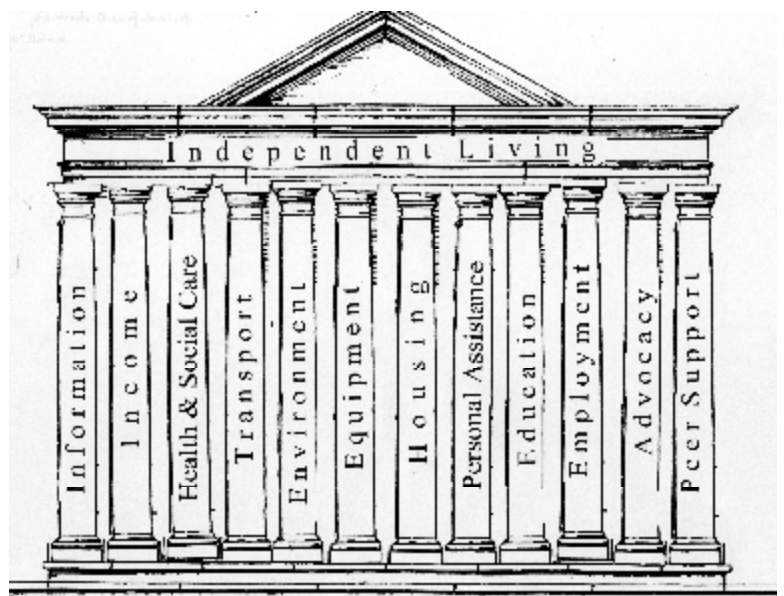
The Consultation was organised by a Steering Committee, made up of representatives from a number of local Disabled People's Organisations (DPO) including DASL and Lambeth Council's Active Communities Team.

Our vision is that the CIL will be an organisation, or a network of DPO's, that provide services and other activities to allow people to live independently. The CIL will be run and controlled by disabled people, work to the social model of disability and be founded on 'The 12 pillars of independent Living.

The consultation asked disabled people about their opinions on a number of principles on which the Steering Committee felt the CIL should be based, such as that it should embrace people of all ages and with all forms of impairment, as well as more open questions about the range of services it should offer and from where it should operate.

The consultation had started on 30th November 2010 with a first

public consultation event and included a survey that could be filled in online or in a paper version; the Lambeth Pan-Disability Forum organised a consultation of its members in February and themed workshops were held at the People First Lambeth and



The CIL would be based on 'The Twelve Pillars of Independent Living' which are recognised by the international disabled people's movement

DASL AGMs. Here the ways in which the Accord building, the most likely headquarters for the CIL, could be developed, were explored.

The great majority of respondents were committed to the idea of a CIL and agreed with the proposed vision and principles. They also strongly favoured the CIL being based at the Accord Centre where many disability organisations are already based but

Lambeth's Centre for Independent Living

felt that services should also reach out to all areas of the borough.

From the consultation, the top services that people wanted from the CIL were:

- 1) Advice and Information
- 2) Campaigning for Disabled Rights
- 3) Support Brokerage
- 4) Training and support for parents of disabled children
- 5) Advocacy

but others were also supported and people also wanted the CIL to create opportunities for social activities and events.

The Steering Committee will now publish a detailed report on the consultation programme and take forward plans for how the CIL could be set up. Lambeth Council will continue to support the development of the CIL at the Accord Centre and has made the project an 'Early Adopter' for the Co-operative Council.

If you would like to find out more about the CIL or are a disabled person who would like to get involved in the next stage of the work please contact Elaine Aherne on 020 7926 4704 or email

elaineatlambethaccord@yahoo.co.uk

Lambeth ACCORD



Lambeth Accord Manager Adrian Harris explains the plans for the buildings at a CIL consultation event

The successful development of the CIL is closely linked with Lambeth Accord's plans to refurbish its building at 336 Brixton Road. The design for the Centre would transform the current building into a centre of excellence for accessible design and environmental sustainability. Planning permission has been given by Lambeth Council and fundraising has commenced. If you would like to find out more about this ambitious and exciting project contact Adrian Harris, Lambeth Accord Manager on 020 7274 2299 email: adrian@lambethaccord.org.uk

Lambeth Council Consults on the future of Services

Lambeth is consulting on three planned changes to services that will directly affect disabled people:

- Abolition of discretionary freedom pass to people eligible to use mental health services
- Cuts to the Taxicard scheme
- Introducing a new 'Your care, your way' 'contributions policy' which will change the way people are charged for adult social care and support services

The Freedom Pass and 'Your care, your way' Contributions Policy consultation meetings have now taken place but you can still make your views known (see below) until 24th June.

Taxicard



This consultation continues until 8th July. Public meetings will be held at Lambeth Town Hall on Friday 27th May 10am - 12.30pm and Friday 10th June, 2- 4.30pm. There is no need



to book - just turn up on the day. If you have any particular communication or access requirements, please call 0800 013 1497 in advance.

For all 3 consultations:

You can submit the online questionnaire—follow the links from: www.lambeth.gov.uk/Services/CouncilDemocracy/Consultations/ACSConsultations or

Text: 07772 103 628

Freephone: 0800 013 1497

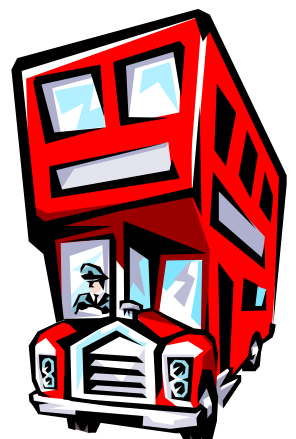
Email:

acs-consultation@lambeth.gov.uk

Freepost: RSKJ-
YSKA-AUSA

ACS Consultation
Lambeth Adults'
and Community
Services

Phoenix House
10 Wandsworth Rd
London SW8 2LL



Pan - Disability Forum

Lambeth Pan-Disability Forum has thrown itself into the campaign against the cuts including members attending and speaking at the *March for an Alternative* on the 26th March; and being actively involved in the protest against Atos Origin and the *Hardest Hit* lobby of parliament. Closer to home LPDF members have in working with and supporting the Lambeth SOS protest at the Town Hall which included an occupation of the Council Chamber!



The Forum has also been involved in Council consultations on the Refuse and the Cultural Services Strategy. Members thought that cultural services were vital to keep people healthy: "it should be seen as a preventative service." The development of brand new recreation centres in Clapham and Streatham should be seen as a golden opportunity to create fully accessible facilities.

Carers' Hub Lambeth

Carers' Hub Lambeth is coordinating a varied programme of events from 12–18 June 2011 to mark national Carers Week. Confirmed events are -

SUNDAY 12

Carers Thames Walk - Thames Path

MONDAY 13

Carers Fair - Windrush Square

TUESDAY 14

Morning - Coffee Mornings across Lambeth

Afternoon - Pampering & Activities

Evening: Games & Entertainment

All at the Woodlawn (Streatham)

WEDNESDAY 15

Summer Forum - Stockwell

Community Centre

Walk 'n' Talk - tba

THURSDAY 16

Morning: Art & Crafts

Afternoon: Arts and Crafts

All at Woodlawn (Streatham)

FRIDAY 17

Coach and Theatre trips - tba

For more information or to join contact Carers' Hub Lambeth on 020 7642 0038



Sharing Skills for Independence

DASL's volunteer development project which was launched in December has been a great success. Funded by a small grant from the Access to Volunteering Fund, the project's aim was to support more disabled people to volunteer with DASL and in the development of a Lambeth CIL.

Since January a group of energetic and committed disabled people have met five times to explore issues relating to all areas of Independent Living and equality. The sessions have been built around areas of interest to the team and have included:

- The Independent Living movement
- Models of Disability and Disabled Identity
- Personalisation
- Presentation from Nick Clarke (Disability Law Service) on the Disability Discrimination Act
- Presentation by The Training Group from People First Lambeth on Communication.

The sessions have been lively and informative and have encouraged the team to think about their own experiences as disabled people and how these can be used to mentor and support others. The programme has tapped into a wealth of skills, knowledge and enthusiasm and DASL will continue the group as they go on to further explore individual and joint areas of interest including:

- Providing Equality Training
- Peer Support/Advocacy
- Access Auditing
- Support Brokerage
- Developing a Disability Archive

To find out more about the Sharing Skills for Independent Living project contact Margaret Farrell at DASL on 020 7642 0041, email: margaret.farrell@disabilitylambeth.org.uk

Below: Participants in the programme share ideas with colleagues from People First Lambeth's Training Group





Sweeping Changes to Council Waste Services

Major changes to the way rubbish and recycling is collected have been made across Lambeth. From 4th April recycling will be made compulsory; all waste containers must be placed on the pavement for collection; a £20 minimum charge for bulky waste collections will be introduced and a scheduled garden waste collection will be launched with a £25 annual fee. Plastic pots, tubs and trays from food packaging will be added to the list of items that can be recycled.

The aim is to encourage residents to reduce, reuse and recycle more of their waste, as well as reducing Lambeth's £15m annual waste bill.

For those who are unable to move their wheeled bin or recycling out onto the pavement, assisted collections are available. It is important that people contact the council to avoid receiving warning letters. Please call the Recycling Team on: 020 7926 9000 or email: recycling@lambeth.gov.uk.

Lambeth Mencap Website

Lambeth Mencap provides a range of community based support services for adults with learning disabilities and their family members and carers. Check out Lambeth Mencap's excellent new website for more details - www.lambethmencap.org.uk

NHS Listening Exercise

The Patients Association is using the Government "pause" in the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill to collect the public's view on the reforms. They have prepared a questionnaire and hope that you could complete it. The questionnaire can be downloaded from their website www.patients-association.com/News/433 or if you ring our Enquiry Line we will pop one in the post to you.



Older LGBT Coffee Morning

This meet up is open to any lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered people who are 50 or over. An informal meeting (it takes place at Vida Welsh Centre, 2B Saltoun Road, Brixton, SW2 1EP. Supported by Age UK, for more info ring Julia on 020 7346 6800.



who we are & how to contact us

www.disabilitylambeth.org.uk



We are a Disabled People's Organisation, an independent charity serving disabled people with all types of impairments in Lambeth, providing:

Advice & information on
living with a disability

Direct Payments Support Service
direct.payments@disabilitylambeth.org.uk

Carers' Hub Lambeth
connect@carershub.org.uk

Advice casework in welfare
benefits, housing and
community care

Lambeth & Southwark
Stroke User Involvement Network
stroke.network@disabilitylambeth.org.uk

Enquiry Line - Contact us Monday to Friday 10am to 3pm:

020 7738 5656
enquiry.line@disabilitylambeth.org.uk

Our teams :

Advice & Information
020 7738 5656

Carers' Hub 020 7642 0038

Direct Payments
020 7642 0041 / 2016

Stroke User Network
020 7642 0040

DASL Fax: 020 7924 9621

DASL Post: 336 Brixton Road
London SW9 7AA

Join us ...
DASL membership is free!

Support us ...
www.justgiving/dasl

DASL provides vital services to local disabled people and to carers. We want more disabled people and others who support our work to become members. When you join you will receive this newsletter regularly and have opportunities to get more involved with what we do.

Contact us on 020 7738 5656 for more details.

DASL is funded by Lambeth Council, NHS Lambeth, Guys & St Thomas' Charity and
The Goldsmiths' Company

Charity No. 1087399 A company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales No. 04214688