

# HARINGEY

## Fairness Commission

*Please complete the following information about your group -*

Group Name (if applicable): CARIS

Number of attendees: 16-20

Postcode of where group is held: N15

Anything else you would like to tell us about your group: We went to drop in session that CARIS holds for parents. Attendees were a mix of local families, child care providers, families with no recourse to public funds.

**A. What have been your experiences of inequality and unfairness in Haringey? (please summarise the conversation, noting people's perspectives on fairness in Haringey, as well as any powerful stories)**

*"I am supported by NASS (National Asylum Service). I have been living here for one year. Next week I have to move to the other side of London. I don't know anyone there. My son is going to nursery here and he has settled in. Now we will have to start all over again, which will be very unsettling. It will be very difficult for both of us. It would be better if we can stay here where we are making friends and we know places to go – playgroup, parks, CARIS. There are people here who help us. We need some stability."*

*"My son needs help. He has speech and language delay and he finds it difficult to sit still. I need help to help him. He has been waiting for an assessment for 8 months, which is a long time. He is five years old and is finding it difficult in school. He needs one to one support with his education. I think Haringey needs to reduce the waiting time for assessments and put support in place more quickly."*

*"My parents have worked and paid tax here for many years and their children are British citizens but they still do not have access to public funds... one of my mum's kids has special needs and he has a local authority plan to help him but my mum can't spend the time she wants with him because she has to work."*

Housing was the most common issue brought up. Everyone in private sector accommodation said it was low quality. Most affected were the women with no recourse to public funds, they reported moving frequently between dirty houses with vermin and a lot of damp. They said having nowhere to stay impacted their children's health and ability to concentrate in school.

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### A. What have been your experiences of inequality and unfairness in Haringey? (continued)

A couple of people were in social housing and their concern was fly tipping and how the council engages and listens to residents. Two women said their estate was badly affected by fly tipping and they thought this had led to a rise in service charges. They wanted the council to install cctv to monitor the fly tipping hot spots. In more general terms they wanted the council to listen to residents when they proposed solutions.

Over crowding was another important issue. One woman reported living in a one bedroom flat with 3 children and 2 adults. They had been on the waiting list for over five years but missed a letter asking if they wanted to remain on the list. They discovered the error when they tried to bid and have been restored to the list but think they have lower preference than before – band C.

Access to good quality and affordable childcare was an issue brought up by all the parents. Two women said they could not return to work as they could not afford childcare. Parents with **older children noted the decline in service since the loss of local children's centres.**

### B. What do you think should be done to make Haringey a more equal and fairer place? (please summarise the conversation, noting down people's perspectives on what is or isn't working, and ideas for what might work better)

Inspect private landlords and private rental houses to make sure they are safe.

Build more social housing.

Impose caps / limits on rent rises from private landlords.

Listen to tenants and act on what they say.

Provide access to good quality childcare at an affordable price to all parents that need it (do not exclude women with no recourse to public funds from subsidised childcare).

Create more communal spaces around Haringey where residents can mix. Lots of people are coming to Tottenham but there is a risk they will just stay in their new build flats and not mix. In Peckham there was lots of communal spaces with opportunities for local creative businesses to stage pop ups and build their business. It has created a multi generational, diverse entrepreneurial environment.

Support the voluntary sector more. CARIS provides a one stop shop for food, nappies, baby equipment, clothing, housing advice and counselling.

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B. What do you think should be done to make Haringey a more equal and fairer place?  
(continued)

C. Of the topics you've discussed, what three issues do the group think the Haringey Fairness Commission should focus on when making recommendations? (Take a vote to decide the priority issues among the group, with attendees given two votes each).

1. More social housing
2. Access to good quality affordable childcare for those who need it regardless of whether they have access to public funds.
3. More control over private rental properties: control rent rises, inspect the properties and root out rogue landlords.

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### APPENDIX: TOPICS DISCUSSED

Please list all of the topics that were raised during the course of your discussion: