

H A R I N G E Y

Fairness Commission

What We've Heard

A summary of Fairness Commission discussions at the
Markfield Adults with Learning Disabilities session

11th March 2019

Markfield, Haringey

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On 11th March 2019, the Fairness Commission went to Markfield to speak with adults with learning disabilities. A Commissioner and an officer attended and held informal discussions with attendees about issues of fairness and equality.

The main points were raised by participants were:

- Employment and Learning Support
- Community Safety
- Disability Awareness Training for Services
- More funding for Adult Social Care

More information about each of these areas, and other issues that were raised, is below.

EMPLOYMENT AND LEARNING SUPPORT

One older man told us he felt he was discriminated against because of his age when trying to get enrolled at a college.

During the discussion, some of the adults were keen to get paid work. Although there were opportunities to work in local cafes, one attendee wanted to work in retail but found it difficult to get a role.

After further discussion, it was clear that the attendees felt that support was lacking for them once they had secured employment.

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COMMUNITY SAFETY

One attendee said that she had people who she thought were her friends come to her house with a knife in the sleeve of their jacket.

'They wanted to kill me and my fiancée, that's why I'm scared.'

Markfield attendee

Everybody present felt that more activities and spaces for young people would help to reduce crime rates.

There were many people that felt unsafe when travelling in Haringey. They would like to see police portacabins for parks, or a contact number linked directly to the park for local police support.

DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING FOR SERVICES

People around the table felt that they were sometimes treated quite harshly by members of the public. They believed the police in particular needed to be more conscious when dealing with people with learning disabilities.

'Police had no respect for me. They shook me up quite badly.'

Markfield attendee

One resident told us of his experience visiting a local Tesco store. During the visit, he paid for his items in two separate transactions. At that point, a security guard accused him of stealing, and he lost his temper slightly. As a result, he recommended that people working in customer services should be trained to treat people with respect.

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MORE FUNDING FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

There was frustration that the funding process doesn't always acknowledge that people with certain types of disabilities need funding. For example, we were told that people with Asperger's syndrome aren't eligible for funding because they are physically able, even though they may need other support.

'There needs to be respite for all different ages, accommodating to specific learning disability needs'.

Markfield attendee

There was a general consensus that cuts had a great impact on older people.

Another concern that was raised was around adults living in residential care, who often have less money to spend on day activities due to reduced funding.

One attendee felt that it was unfair that she couldn't get the funding to buy a special mobile phone specifically for visually impaired people.

In order to address social isolation, one resident recommended a coffee morning, where members provide a small contribution to fund the initiative.

'There should be a coffee morning so that people don't feel lonely'.

Markfield attendee

Thank you to all those who came and contributed to the Fairness Commission's session at Markfield. If you came along and contributed but feel your views aren't reflected here, please contact us either by email or telephone (fairness@Haringey.gov.uk / 020 8489 1606).