Disability Action Haringey Strategy Plan - 2026-29

Glossary

SMD+ = Social Model of Disability, 12 Pillars of Independent Living & Disability Justice

Background / Context

Disability Action Haringey (DAH) was formed in 2020 by a group of local D/deaf and disabled residents with a shared vision: to create an independent, user-led organisation that would support D/deaf and disabled people in Haringey to live independently and with dignity.

DAH became a registered charity on 20th October 2020 and formally began operating in the borough on 6th April 2021. Our formation was driven by the need for a strong, local voice led by and for D/deaf and disabled people committed to challenging inequality and promoting inclusion.

From the outset, DAH has been rooted in the Social Model of Disability, 12 Pillars of Independent Living & Disability Justice hereafter referred to as the Social Model of Disability Plus (SMD+). As a Deaf and Disabled People's Organisation (DDPO), we are guided by the principle that the barriers in society not people's impairments are what disable us. Our work is shaped by the lived experiences of our community and built around the idea that our support and vision must come from a place of understanding, empowerment, and shared experience.

Vision and Mission

An inclusive Haringey, free of disabling barriers, where diversity and human rights are valued and where Deaf and disabled people have dignity, independence and equality of opportunity.

We believe that disability is the result of society's environmental, organisational, communicative and attitudinal barriers that exclude people with impairments. As a Deaf and Disabled People's Organisation, it is necessary to break down those barriers, ensuring we, as disabled people, are heard.

Disability Action Haringey follows the SMD+. We believe that disabled people face barriers in society that prevent them from fully taking part in life and the world.

Our focus is on trying to remove those barriers, and supporting disabled people to have independence, and make choices about their own lives.

Values

At Disability Action Haringey (DAH), our values shape everything we do. They reflect who we are, what we believe, and how we work both with each other and with our community.

- Inclusive
  We value equality, celebrate diversity, and actively remove barriers to participation. We work to ensure everyone feels welcomed, heard, and represented.
- Respectful
  We treat everyone we meet with dignity and fairness—whether service users, colleagues, partners or members of the public.
- Compassionate
  We build relationships rooted in care, empathy, and understanding. We listen without judgment and support people in ways that are meaningful to them.
- Collaborative
  We believe in the power of working together—within our team, with our community, and alongside other organisations. We value shared learning, co-production, and partnership.
- Committed
  We are deeply committed to our community, our mission, and the principles of the social model of disability. We work with purpose, integrity, and a belief in lasting change led by D/deaf and disabled people.

These values guide our everyday actions and decisions. They ensure that DAH continues to grow as a trusted, inclusive, and user-led organisation led by and for D/deaf and disabled people

The services we offer

These are some examples of the services we provide, which, over the period of this strategy, will develop and change in response to the needs of Deaf and disabled people in Haringey.

- Social Care Services and Peer Support
- Welfare Benefits Service
- Support Group Services
- Direct Payment Peer-to-Peer Support and Training
- Personal (care) Assistant Information and Opportunities

Our Outcomes

