



05.06.2025

**Letter from the London Campaign Network - for and run by people with learning difficulties/disabilities - to all London MPs.**

**Disabled people are being pushed further to the edge!**

We are writing to you because life is becoming more difficult for people with learning difficulties and disabilities, and many of us are being left behind by the systems meant to support us.

Members of the London Campaign Network agreed their top campaign priorities in November 2024; one of which is **‘Benefits and Money’**.

We are now particularly worried about the proposed changes to the health and disability benefits in the [Pathways to work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working](#). There are a lot of things that are [not being consulted on](#). The online survey is not accessible and we are not being given any extra time to respond to this consultation.

Over a million adults in the UK live with a learning difficulty/disability. Even though many of us want to work, only 6% of adults with learning disabilities in England are in paid jobs. For comparison, over 80% of non-disabled

people are employed. These numbers aren't just statistics they reflect the real life barriers we face every single day.

Living with a learning difficulty or disability is already challenging enough. Every day, we have to fight to be seen, to be heard, and to be valued in a society that was never built with us in mind. See the [People First \(Self Advocacy\) Manifesto, See Us, Hear Us, Value Us](#)

So, when the very benefits we rely on, benefits we had to fight hard for are now being stripped away, it feels not just cruel, but deeply dehumanising.

At a London Campaign Network meeting in March 2025 members shared their experiences of the barriers they face around benefits. They then thought about what would help them overcome them. A summary of these discussions is attached to the letter as Appendix 1.

The benefits and support we receive aren't luxuries; they are lifelines. They help us achieve some sense of stability, independence, and routine. Without them, many of us would not survive, let alone thrive!

There's a dangerous lack of empathy in the way these changes are being discussed and consulted on. Our existence is often treated as a burden, as something society has to carry. But with the right support, we can and do lead rich, meaningful lives.

Some of us were born with our conditions, others became disabled due to accidents or health issues, none of it by choice. And yet we are made to feel like we are asking for

too much, or that we are draining public resources. But we are not using the system we are surviving in it.

We feel frustrated, judged, confused, unseen, a lot of us are depressed and fed up with being punished for needing benefits. Claiming support and benefits shouldn't feel like a crime.

Nearly 200,000 people with learning disabilities rely on Personal Independence Payment (PIP) to manage essential costs but now there is a very real risk that this support is reduced or removed. These changes may seem "helpful" to the economy, but these proposed actions will put additional strains on local authorities and the NHS, costing an estimate amount of £1.2 billion a year.

Access to Work is also under threat. We fought hard to use this support as it has made working possible for so many people with learning difficulties/disabilities.

Does this make economic, ethical, and moral sense?

**Please see Appendix 1:**

Benefits workshop – Barriers and Solutions

**People First (Self Advocacy)**

[www.peoplefirstltd.com](http://www.peoplefirstltd.com)

[info@peoplefirstltd.com](mailto:info@peoplefirstltd.com)

**Tel:** 020 7274 5484

**Address:** 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA, England