



**men**ncap

**The voice of  
learning disability**

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# Mencap's response to cuts

## Big cuts events



# This session will look at:

- Comprehensive Spending Review
- Local Government Settlement
- Local authority funding sources
- What Mencap is doing?
- What can you do?

# Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2010

- CSR sets out the spending priorities of the Government
- Covers the next 4 years of spending
- Cuts public spending by £81 billion by 2014/15
- However, overall spending up from £697 billion to £740 billion



# CSR highlights



- Welfare benefits
- Health
- Social care
- Local authority funding

# How are local authorities funded?

From Government:

- Block grant (bulk of the funding)
- Specific grants
- Business rates



From council efforts:

- Council taxes
- Charges



# Local Government Settlement 2011-12

- Tough settlement
- Average 4.4% cut in spending power
- Some councils have a higher cut
- Reduced ring fencing

# Benefit changes in CSR

## Housing Benefit

- Maximum cap of £21k per year
- Cap ranging from £250 per week on 1 bed property to £400 for 4 bed
- Lower rate of Local Housing Allowance based on 30% of properties

## Employment Support Allowance (ESA)

- Those on contributory ESA to lose it after 12 months
- 10% reduction in Housing Benefit after 1 year on JSA

# Cont...

## Disability Living Allowance



- Removal of DLA mobility component for people in residential care
- DLA reform
  - Personal Independence Payment
  - New test for DLA

# Council cuts

- Many councils announcing big cuts but with little information
- Are all these cuts necessary?
- Impact on social care is unclear



# Social care funding

- Growing demand on social care
- Extra social care funding will go some way to help
  - Social care grant
  - NHS funding to support social care and benefit grant
  - Learning Disability and Health Reform Grant
- Local authorities must use this to protect the frontline

# Supporting people

- Overall national cut is relatively low
  - 3% cut over 4 years
- Big range of gains and losses
- Funding not ringfenced
- Some councils acting unfairly - Somerset



# What is Mencap doing?



## Nationally:

- Protect the Front Line campaign
- DLA mobility component
- Welfare Reform Bill
- Work Capability Assessment (WCA)
- Talk LD website
- Investigating individual local authorities
- Messages in the media
- Working with MPs and Peers

# Cont...

## Supporting local campaigning

- Sharing information, evidence and experience
- Don't cut us out! Campaigns guide
- Local 'Protect the Frontline' events
- MP briefing on cuts
- E-actions – DLA mobility

## Successful campaigns!

- Cornwall
- Bedfordshire
- Isle of Wight
- Norfolk



# What can you do locally?

## 1. Gather evidence – Information is power!

- Council budgets
- National data
- New social care grants
- Supporting people
- Is social care being treated fairly?



# Cont...

## 2. Take action!



- Respond to local consultations
- Contact your local councillor
- Get in touch with your MP
- Write to local newspapers, radio and TV
- Hold a 'Protect the Frontline' event

## 3. Share your knowledge

email: [campaigns@mencap.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@mencap.org.uk)

# Conclusion

- Some scope for efficiency savings
- Growing demand will impact services
- Tough deal for local authorities
- Extra social care funding must be spent correctly
- Protect the Frontline!
- Keep Supporting People
- “Don’t cut us out!”