



"a voice for people with learning difficulties"

Case Study - July 2007

Members of the APNA group in Dudley (a self advocacy group for Muslim people) just got letters from social services saying that they will have to pay £9 per week to be part of the group.

The APNA group receives about £10,000 per year from their local social services, but through charging, social services will be getting about £6,000 back.

The supporters to the group reassured carers when the financial assessments were done that they were more of a formality but now members have received letters about charging.

It might not sound like a lot of money, but it is to families that rely on benefits and also to families who have more than one member with learning difficulties. Moreover, the families largely do not access any support services and only allow their family members to attend APNA because they know and trust the supporters and the members get to go to the groups with no effort from the families.

A £9 weekly service charge could have serious impact on numbers of members no longer being allowed to come to the group and as a result not accessing any support services outside their family unit at all.

Dudley has an overspend of about 1.2 million so it is not surprising that this charging has been introduced.

Please contact Raymond at People First for more information
general@peoplefirstltd.com