

## Open Letter

To:

Cabinet member ASC Cllr Josh Blacker [BlackerJ@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:BlackerJ@ealing.gov.uk)

cc Kerry Stevens (Adult services and public health), Carolyn Fair (Children and families), Ealing Reclaim Social Care Action Group

Dear Cllr Josh Blacker,

### ***Ealing: Implement Care Act support for disabled mothers***

The [Disabled Mothers' Rights Campaign](#) (DMRC) brings together disabled mothers and other disabled women for the right to have a family and keep our children.

Ms B is a Black disabled single mother who complained to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman about Ealing not supporting her efforts to care for her child. In 2019, the Ombudsman [ruled](#) that Ealing should:

- **Pay £12,000 childminder costs** which Ms B incurred for her child to get to school and other assistance to support her caring work as a mother. The Ombudsman said:  
  
"The Care Act s12 says in carrying out the assessment, the local authority must have regard to the needs of the family of the adult to whom the assessment relates."
- **Pay her £2,000 compensation** for her distress, time, trouble and uncertainty.
- **Apologise to Ms B for its failures.**
- **Review collaborative working** between adult and children's social care.

**Following this ruling**, Ealing councillors had to consider that "injustice has been caused, in relation to provision of social care support to . . . Ms B". ([Cabinet meeting](#), April 2019)

#### **What changes in Ealing's practice have been made as a result?**

On your Adult Social Care webpages, "[What to expect from adult social care](#)" and the [What is a social care assessment](#) opening page, there is not a word about assessing the needs of the family.

The Disabled Mothers' Rights Campaign sent FOI requests to your FOI officer asking for figures on how many disabled mothers get Care Act support and how many are put on child protection. We got no reply from Ealing.

**Given the Ombudsman's ruling, we urgently need to know what the Council has done and will do** to ensure that disabled mothers in Ealing:

- are getting the support we need and are legally entitled to;
- are informed that support will be provided;
- are not punished for demanding our legal entitlements with threats of “child protection” leading to our children being taken away from us.

We look forward to your reply so we can inform disabled mothers and others of whether and how Ealing Council is complying with the law.

Sincerely,

Tracey Norton, Disabled Mothers' Rights Campaign co-ordinator  
- WinVisible: women with visible & invisible disabilities

Tracey Lazard, CEO, Inclusion London

Cristel Amiss and Anne Neale, Support Not Separation

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