

## Budget feedback

### Details

#### About us:

WinVisible (women with visible and invisible disabilities) is a grassroots multi-racial organisation started in 1984, with a UK-wide network. We are based on collective self-help and peer support.  
[www.winvisible.org](http://www.winvisible.org)

In 2001, we supported Sue Ferguson's successful legal case against Liverpool City Council's charging policy. Twenty years ago, this established the principle that a husband or partner's income must be excluded from care charges. This went into national Department of Health guidance.

<https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/council-caves-help-charges-3563883>

To this day, her challenge has helped to protect all disabled women from domestic abuse by not making us financially dependent on partners. Disabled women are twice as likely to suffer domestic violence as non-disabled women, and it is very hard to leave a violent partner and any home adaptations you may have. You have to establish all your support from scratch, your care does not follow you to a refuge. Some women fleeing domestic violence have ended up being placed in a residential home.

#### Liverpool City Council (LCC) Budget consultation

We support the issues raised by Liverpool Against the Cuts (your consultation reference 10373050).

#### Adult social care

In 2020, we (with Sue Ferguson) already warned about the impact of increased care charges by LCC:  
<https://winvisibleblog.wordpress.com/2021/01/06/liverpool-cc-our-response-to-care-pet-charges-consultation/>

Shamefully, LCC's Cabinet passed these increased charges on 3 December 2021.

The Budget cuts to social care will hit disabled women

## Budget feedback

who are the majority of people reliant on support services, those of us of colour suffering health inequality, those of us who can least afford private arrangements and so are reliant on public services, people with high needs and family carers, disproportionately hard. We note that the Chief Executive receives a salary of £224,400 and other senior posts are on the same scale.

Sue Ferguson spoke out against the care charges and Budget cuts in Disability News Service: Disabled campaigners call for Liverpool to set example by ending care charges

<https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/disabled-campaigners-call-for-liverpool-to-set-example-by-ending-care-charges/>

During the pandemic, new disability benefit claims have dropped, it is harder to get through to DWP staff by phone, and much harder to access advice and support in the community, especially in person. And after claiming or being reassessed, many people are refused benefit, as many GPs are not responding to patients requesting letters or to the assessor companies asking them for reports.

In April 2020, new PIP claims had dropped by 40%:  
<https://www.rightsnet.org.uk/welfare-rights/news/item/number-of-new-pip-claims-reduced-by-almost-40-per-cent-in-april-2020-compared-to-same-time-last-year>

But LCC has closed or reduced the open hours of One Stop Shops. This denies help to people in need and compounds this deprivation of benefits:

<https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/backlash-liverpool-one-stop-shop-20900213>

In the Budget consultation, LCC refers to 'demand management' of people's need for support and care; to reviewing and revising day centre services, and 'Reviewing high-cost care packages to ensure individual needs are being met and funded in the correct way -- to save £1.9 million'.

THIS STRIKES FEAR into the hearts of disabled

## Budget feedback

people and family carers, majority women, who are already struggling to survive with no support, only minimal hours or less support than we need, and who are completely exhausted.

Severely disabled people are blamed for being 'high-cost'. Unwaged disabled people with high needs already pay the highest care charges as we receive higher rates of disability benefits, which is disability discrimination. This was successfully challenged by SH against Norfolk County Council.

<https://www.leighday.co.uk/latest-updates/news/2020-news/severely-disabled-woman-wins-her-claim-that-council-care-charges-are-discriminatory/>

Cutting adult social care support will kill more Liverpool residents. In the first year of the pandemic, the death rate of people on the homecare register doubled, especially in deprived areas, and most deaths were NOT COVID-related.

Liverpool was one of the high deaths places, as you know from being interviewed:

<https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/stories/2021-05-10/revealed-thousands-of-pandemic-deaths-in-home-care>

Councils point to people with learning disabilities and autism as high-cost, but many local authorities many spend thousands on placing people with learning disabilities with so-called 'challenging behaviour', including women and girls, in privatised units where abusive solitary confinement and restraint are common practice. Please reply to us on what LCC's provision in this area consists of, and why it is high-cost.

Children's social care and support for disabled mothers

We want disabled mothers and disabled children to be supported, not placed under "child protection" and faced with fostering and adoption.

Condemning the abject failure to protect Arthur

## Budget feedback

Labinjo-Hughes, the Support Not Separation coalition we are part of, said:

'Children are routinely put on 'child protection' when mothers ask for help with domestic violence or disabilities. A single mother who needed respite while she had surgery, struggles to get her children back from 'care' three years later.'

'80,000 children are in 'care', in most cases because mothers' poverty is equated with 'neglect' and men's violence is blamed on women. While mothers are denied the support they need and are entitled to under the Children and Care Acts, councils are financing a hugely lucrative privatised child removal industry. They pay on average £4000 a week per child in 'care' and up to £20,000 for a residential home. This has distorted every humane consideration in the evaluation of every individual child.'

<https://supportnotseparation.blog/2021/12/17/authorities-failed-to-protect-arthur>

We want all the above issues we raise to be registered and acted on.

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Read and accept privacy notice	Yes

## About this request

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