



**disability network hounslow**  
hounslow's centre for independent living

Mayor's favourite  
Charity 2008/09

### Disability Network Hounslow – Background Information

*Disability Network Hounslow strives to relieve the experience of disability and exists to create an inclusive environment for all disabled people.*

In 1987, a group of disabled people set up the Hounslow Association of Disabled People (HBADP) which was registered as a charity in 1989 to provide a voice for disabled people: offering support and help to meet their needs. It is a membership organisation: which gives it a unique position within the Borough as an organisation that is fully representative of the client group it serves.

In 2002, HBADP changed its name to Disability Network Hounslow (DNH) and was also registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee. DNH is a user-led, pan-disability, membership organisation. It is a member of DIAL UK, a national umbrella body of disability advice services.

DNH alleviates poverty and suffering by providing information, advice and advocacy to access rights; work; education; services; housing and benefits. *'At 30%, the poverty rate among those aged 25 to retirement who are disabled is twice the rate for those who are not disabled. This 'excess' poverty risk for disabled people is larger than it was a decade ago'.* – Monitoring poverty and social exclusion 2007 – Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the New Policy Institute.

DNH is the only specialist information and advice service for disabled people, their families, and carers in Hounslow. Offering a comprehensive range of disability and related advice, it improves lives by helping service users gain independence, freedom of choice and opportunities for full participation in the community: opportunities that their able bodied peers take for granted. It supports over 3,000 disabled people per year and their families & carers and many others, through the service providers who access our services for information and sign posting. The project has raised over £1million in back dated benefit awards for disabled people and their carers in Hounslow.

Membership is open to anyone who identifies themselves as having a disability and who lives or works in Hounslow and the surrounding boroughs. The Board of Trustees, voted in by Members at our AGM, has a majority of members who have a disability - DNH supports the objective of ensuring that the services it provides are delivered in the main by people who are themselves living with a disability, either their own or as a Carer of a family member, friend or neighbour.

*DNH operates the social model of disability that considers disability in the context of the social and environmental factors that create disabling barriers to disabled people's participation in society.*

شبكة الاتصالات للمعوقين في هونسلو  *Reseau des Handicapes à Hounslow* انجمن معزوراں هانسلو

- Management & Administration Hub
- The Star Centre, 63-65 Bell Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 3NX
- Tel: 0208 577 0956 ■ Fax 0208 814 0311 ■ Minicom 0208 569 5445
- mail@disabilitynetworkhounslow.org ■ www.disabilitynetworkhounslow.org

Patron: Michael Knowles

Funders: London Borough Hounslow, Lloyds TSB, Bridge House Estates

## **OBJECTIVES**

- **Relieve** the experience of disability of people with physical, mental, hidden or learning disabilities or sensory impairments, if they live or work within the London Borough of Hounslow
- **Further** the independence of service users and promote full participation in their chosen communities
- **Identify** the needs of disabled people within the London Borough of Hounslow to inform improved service provision
- **Provide** a means for the exchange and dissemination of information
- **Encourage** a coalition of voluntary and statutory organisations and individuals to promote activities that improve services for disabled people
- **Promote** a better understanding of disabled people's needs
- **Increase** awareness of disability issues and issues affecting individual disabled people
- **Ensure** equality for members and represent their interests at local, regional and national levels

## **Advice & Information Service**

At the heart of DNH is the Information, Advice & Advocacy service. The service is available by telephone/email, fax/minicom, drop-in, booked appointments and offers home visits & has raised over £1million in back dated benefit awards since 2001, for disabled people and their carers living or working in Hounslow. The service also provides a monthly newsletter, translation facilities, as well as information leaflets, factsheets on a range of topics and training for other agencies.

## **Deaf Community Project**

The Project also provides advice and information, and helped start a Deaf Club and completed a Deaf Oral History Project. The project worker uses British Sign Language (BSL) and DNH has successfully promoted the recognition of BSL as a language within the Borough. Because of the success of the project, DNH secured funding for this work until 2010. We have also successfully put in a joint Tender with Middlesex Association of the Blind to run the Supporting People via BSL project on behalf of the Council. It has been piloted since July 2002 and supports eight people at any one time with tenancy related needs. The supporting people project will now be funded to 2013.

## **DNH SERVICES:**

- A comprehensive advice and information service e.g. benefits, transport, adaptations, employment, housing and social services
  - Including Multi-lingual Drop in Surgeries, Coffee Mornings, Appointments and Home visits
- A service for the deaf community to support those whose preferred language is BSL (British Sign Language)
  - Including Practical help, Advice and Baby and Parent Signing classes
- Social activities
  - Including Talks, Information Sessions, Coffee Mornings and Outings
- Community liaison
  - Including Input to local networks; Policy input; Research and Campaigns.
- Consultancy advice to local businesses on disability issues, e.g. access, employment best practice, adaptations and (new for 2010) basic BSL classes and courses for local people and businesses interested in gaining or developing deaf awareness and communication skills.
- Braille, Translation and Interpreter services
- Training services for other agencies
  - Including basic BSL classes and courses for local people and businesses interested in gaining or developing deaf awareness and communication skills
- A Resource Library and a Monthly Newsletter for the sharing and dissemination of information

**Disability Network Hounslow is the borough's only independent, member led, pan-disability charity that has been supporting all of Hounslow's communities over the past 20 years.**