



# ENABLING DISABLED PEOPLE

## GREEN PARTY DISABILITY GROUP

The challenges faced by disabled people are unprecedented. Since 2010, the Government's cuts have affected people four times more than other citizens and six times more where people get social care<sup>1</sup>. Also, as disabled people are more likely to receive benefits than others, any reductions hit them disproportionately hard.



At the same time:

- The Independent Living Fund has been scrapped.
- People are suffering humiliating Work Capability Assessments to access the benefits they need.
- Only 1% of working aged disabled people are getting 'Access to Work' monies.<sup>(ii)</sup>
- Two thirds of the people negatively affected by the bedroom tax are disabled.<sup>(iii)</sup>
- There was a 580% increase in disabled people being sanctioned.<sup>(iv)</sup>

- 56% of all disabled people and 93% of people with learning disability are unemployed, as compared to 8% of the general public.<sup>(v)</sup>
- The challenges of accessing buildings, housing, and services have worsened.<sup>(vi)</sup>
- This year 100,000 disabled people could lose their mobility vehicles.<sup>(vii)</sup>
- Care funds have reduced by 30% in five years making it harder for people to get the support they need.<sup>(viii)</sup>

The impacts of cuts have been appalling. Many people have died or suffered significant hardship<sup>(ix)</sup> after being told they are 'fit for work', many others are surviving only with the help of friends, family and food banks. This is putting unsustainable pressure on carers and NHS services.<sup>(x)</sup>

Many more people with severe disability are being 'locked away' despite the Government's commitment to close units, like Winterbourne view. No wonder a recent poll by the Learning Disability Alliance, scored the Government just 2 out of 10!



## THE GREEN PARTY WILL:

- Enforce the rights of all disabled adults and children to good housing, work and fulfilling lives.
- Re-instate the Independent Living Fund.
- Increase funding for Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payments.
- Close Assessment and Treatment Units and help all disabled people explore their housing and care options, and to create good local alternatives.
- Scrap work capability assessments and re-instate the GP supported process.
- Provide FREE social care to all people with an assessed need.
- Provide older carers with a more generous Citizens' Pension.
- Increase the Carers' Allowance and improve the integration of health and social care.
- Work to make communities, services and housing accessible to all.
- Recognise the people with specialist communication needs and ensure British Sign Language, Easy Read, and Braille are fully supported.



 Join the Green Party

We depend on the support of our members for all the work we do. Annual membership starts from £5 for students, £10.50 concessions.

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We will make sure that everyone has the opportunity to live their life with dignity and reach their full human potential, and that means providing the facilities, services and the benefits that people need.<sup>(xi)</sup>

**NATALIE BENNETT LEADER**

- 1(i) See figures from Professor Simon Duffy of Centre for Welfare Reform 2013-14
- (ii) DWP Access To Work Qtrly stats – July 2014, p2
- (iii) <http://www.cih.org/news-article>
- (iv) <http://www.benefitsandwork.co.uk/news/2865>
- (v) National DWP Figures
- (vi) Leonard Cheshire – Hidden Housing Crisis-July 2014
- (vii) <http://www.itv.com/news/2015-03-13/disability-cuts>
- (viii) HSCIC, Community Care Stats, 2013-2014, p35
- (ix) See DPAC and Black Triangle role call
- (x) Nat. Audit Office; Adult Social Care Report/March 2014, p8
- (xi) See United Response video - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuFHRTsFp2A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuFHRTsFp2A)

**DISABILITY GROUP**



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