

Frequently Asked Questions

Haringey Disability First Consortium



What is HDFC? Haringey Disability First Consortium is a disability organisation providing advice, casework, and representation for disabled people in Haringey.

Who are the consortium partners? Age Concern Haringey, Haringey Citizen's Advice Bureaux, Haringey Race and Equality Council and Haringey Women's Forum make up the consortium.

Why are organisations that are not 'disability focused' acting for disabled people? HDFC's work is directed by a forum of disabled people called 'Enabling Haringey'. Although none of the consortium partners are 'disability specific' all four have great connections in the local area, lots of experience providing casework and representation to marginalised groups and are committed to equality. Different marginalised groups are grouped together under the 2010 Equality Bill, and in the work of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC).

What does the EHRC do? The law says that all people have the right to be treated fairly no matter what their gender, faith, race, age, sexuality, gender history or if they have a 'disability'. The EHRC and 2010 Equality Bill protect these rights equally.

What is 'disability'? This is a complex question! Disabled people and campaigners, doctors, lawyers and academics debate this! The law says that you are 'disabled' if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial, long term impact on day-to-day activities. This includes sensory impairments (being blind or deaf), mental health issues (depression, schizophrenia etc.), learning and physical disabilities, facial disfigurements and long-term health conditions (HIV, cancer etc.). HDFC uses the 'social model of disability' rather than a medical or legal definition.

What is the 'social model of disability'? The social model of disability suggests that people are 'disabled' by society's barriers rather than a particular 'health condition', and if those barriers are lifted then people will not be 'disabled'. For example, in the past all people with less than perfect eyesight would have been disabled. Nowadays glasses, contact lenses and laser surgery mean only some people with visual impairments are disabled. If we think about people's requirements and use the right tools and technology we can work together to be accessible to everyone and reduce disability.

Haringey Disability First Consortium is made up of four local community organisations:



Charity number 1005145



Charity number: 1069301



Charity number: 1118255



Charity number: 1088695