

DPAC—Disabled People Against Cuts

A representative of Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC) will be speaking at the March Forum.

They say the following about themselves, voicing many of the concerns about perceptions of disabled people in society voiced in our own Language Code.

“DPAC was formed by a group of disabled people after the first mass protest against the austerity cuts and their impact on disabled people held on the 3rd October in Birmingham.

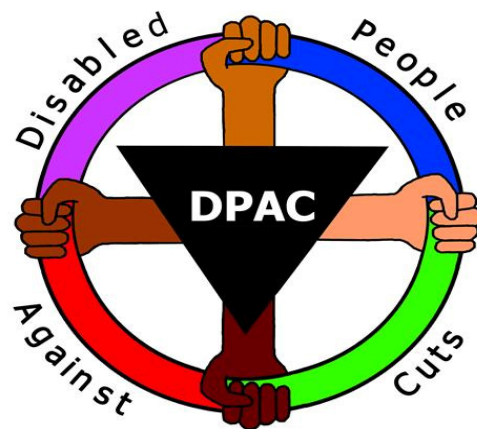
It was led by disabled people under the name of The Disabled People's Protest.

DPAC is for everyone who believes that disabled people should have full human rights and equality.

It is for everyone who refuses to stay silent about the injustices delivered by wealthy politicians on ordinary people and their lives.

The austerity measures however need to be seen in a wider historical context.

“Disabled people are an easy target because society has accepted the view that generally speaking disabled people are unable to



fully participate within society due solely to our impairments. This view, supported through negative and pejorative stereotyping, distorts who we are and the causes of the disabling barriers we face.”

“Inappropriate and misleading labels such as “the disabled” or “vulnerable adults or children” reinforce prejudices and discrimination.

Disabled people are not “the disabled” – we are a diverse social group of people with a variety of impairments who continue to face unequal and differential treatment resulting from systems, structures and cultures which fail to take disabled people into account...”

More information on DPAC is available on:

<http://www.dpac.uk.net>

Or e-mail:
mail@dpac.uk.net

Or through us at DBU.

Next Disability Backup forum meeting

March 26th 2012 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Speakers

Andy Greene—Disabled People Against Cuts
David Thomson—Service Manager for Passenger Transport

Queensbridge Sports & Community Centre
30 Holly St,
London
E8 3XW

Buses: 236, 149, 67, 243,

Equalities Consultation

On 22nd February a consultation took place on Hackney Council's Equalities Strategy.

The 2010 Equality Act requires the Council to produce a strategy in line with the new public duty to promote equalities. This law bans unfair treatment and helps achieve equal opportunities in the workplace and in wider society.

The law provides that it is illegal to treat people unfairly because they have one or more of nine characteristics. The areas are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Maureen Ford, who represented DBU at the meeting said:

"Although the gap between rich and poor is getting greater, this is an effort to ensure that people do not suffer more because they are disabled or in another vulnerable group."

At a follow up meeting with Hackney's Equalities team it was agreed that the DBU language code – signed last year by the Speaker of Hackney – would be posted on the Council's website and that reference to it would be promoted.

Update from February Forum

At the February Forum, Michael from Graeae Theatre Company spoke to our members about the theatre company and showed a short clip about their latest production 'Reasons to be Cheerful'. The production is a part gig, part play creation which was well received in 2010.

Members were very interested and wanted to know more about when the play starts as well as the cost of tickets.

Two tickets were raffled by Michael from Graeae and DBU member Christiana Richardson was the lucky winner.

'Reasons to be Cheerful' runs only for a short period Wednesday March 28th to Sunday April 1st. Tickets are on sale at the Hackney Empire box office. Ticket prices start from £10.00 - £27.00 with a concession of £2.00 off.

All performances include captioned dialogue, BSL-interpreted songs and audio description.

If you would like to know more about the Graeae's production 'Reasons to be Cheerful' you can visit the website:

www.reasonstobecheerfulthemusical.co.uk

You can also contact the Hackney Empire on their website: www.hackney.co.uk or call 020 8985 2424

Lianna Etkind from the Transport for All charity (TfA) spoke to our DBU members about the services that they provide for people living in London.

Transport for All campaigns tirelessly for change and are recognised for their efforts to make transport services – including buses, tube, Dial-A-Ride and Taxicard – more accessible for disabled and older people living in London.

TfA along with other organisations will be putting all the Mayoral candidates in the hot seat on March 20th and are inviting you to come along to a Question Time style hustings about plans to improve the accessibility of the Tube, bus access and funding for key door to door services.

For more details call Transport for All on 020 7737 2339, visit their website: www.transportforall.org.uk

Victory for Crossings Campaign!

DBU activists joined Living Streets and Transport for All (TfL) on February 15th in a rush hour roadside demonstration against Transport for London's plans to remove the pedestrian crossing on Curtain Rd. in Shoreditch.

The crossing, near Rivington St is used by people walking to the nearby Moorfields Eye Hospital. Naturally, many of its users are visually impaired.



TfL wanted to remove the crossing to assist traffic flow. Now they say they will look again at the issue.

The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) has warned recently that 18 crossings in Hackney are dangerous for visually impaired people.

These crossings, which include ones in busy centres like Mare St and Kingsland Rd, lack the audible sounds and tactile rotating cones, which help visually impaired to cross the road safely.

MOPC

A DBU member recently attended a consultation meeting on the work of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPC).

MOPC replaces the Metropolitan Police Authority. The MOPC oversees the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and is responsible for ensuring that the MPS is efficient, effective and fair.

Andrea Rawlings commented: *"This was an excellent opportunity to get into*

discussions on policing strategy early on, as opposed to being consulted when everything has already been decided."

You can contact the MOPC on enquiries@mopc.police.uk or Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime
10 Dean Farrar Street
London
SW1H 0NY
020 7202 0202

Human Rights Training

Interested in training in the Human Rights Act and how to use its provisions ?

A limited number of places are available on a one day course being run by the British Institute of Human Rights in April (date to be confirmed).

If you are interested in taking part, let us know.

Mayoral Question Time Hustings

Inclusion London and Transport for All is organising a hustings at which disabled people can question the candidates standing to be Mayor of London on what they will do to help the 1.4m Deaf and disabled people living in London.

Tuesday 20th March 10.30am -1.30pm at Coin St Community builders, 108 Stamford St, South Bank, SE1 9NH.

For more information e-mail libby.oakley@inclusionlondon.co.uk or call 020 7237 3181.

We want to hear from you!

We are working to serve you better, your comments are very important to us as we strive to improve the services that we provide as well as increase awareness about Disability Backup.

We want to hear from you; this is your opportunity to raise your concerns. It does not matter how small they are we want to you to tell us about them.

If you have difficulties with access, transport or issues to do with your benefits we would like to hear from you.

If your concerns are to do with the way that we are running DBU we would like to hear from you; remember this is the only way that we can improve on our delivery.

Call Carol 0207 241 5908

DBU needs you!

Do you have a few hours to spare each month to team up with other volunteers and help mail out the DBU newsletter? *Please call Carol on 020 7241 5908 for details.*

Partnership in Social Care at a time of Crisis

A free conference for all those involved in social care – including service users at London South Bank University on 20th March 10.00am-4.00pm.

Speakers include Professor Peter Beresford, author of *Shaping Our Lives* and Kaliya Franklin and Sue Marsh on disability and benefits activists and bloggers.

To book or get more information email: socialworkconference@lsbus.ac.uk

Commissioning for Personalisation

A wide ranging review is being carried out by Hackney Council of its services and how to make them more responsive to local people's needs – and save money.

A DBU representative is amongst other service user groups involved in discussions on the £1.7m currently spent by the Council on providing transport directly for journeys like those to day centres; residents' use of parks and libraries and a wide range of community based care, including provision for people with very high needs, including many disabled people.

We will be organising a special workshop on adult social care in April to feed back the views of our members to managers of services.



Disability Backup
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