Funding Strategy & Investment Plan (2026–2029)

Disability Action Haringey

1. Executive Summary

This document sets out how Disability Action Haringey (DAH) will secure the funding needed to deliver its priorities over the remainder of its current strategy period.

It focuses on:

- What needs to be funded
- Where income should be developed
- How DAH will build long-term sustainability

DAH is a trusted, user-led organisation with strong partnerships and a proven track record of securing funding. However, it faces increasing demand, limited core funding, and reliance on short-term income.

This strategy builds on DAH's existing strengths in public funding while introducing greater diversification through trusts, capital funding, and earned income.

2. Funding Strategy Overview

Where We Are Now

Strengths

- Strong track record of securing grants and contracts
- Established relationships with local authority and partners
- Trusted, user-led organisation with strong community links
- Clear organisational strategy and priorities

Challenges

- Reliance on short-term funding
- Limited core funding
- Capacity constraints- potential loss of the Ability Hub
- Lack of a structured funding pipeline

Funding Approach

DAH will adopt a balanced and sustainable income model:

- Core and multi-year funding to provide stability
- Commissioned income to increase sustainability
- Earned income to generate unrestricted funds
- Capital funding to support long-term infrastructure

This approach builds on existing strengths while reducing reliance on single funding sources.

3. Funding Priorities

Priority 1 — Strengthening and Expanding the IAG Service (~£160k–£163k per year)

Why this matters

- Core, high-demand service
- Essential to supporting independence and access

What is needed

- Multi-year funding (3–5 years) to sustain and expand the Information, Advice and Guidance service.
- Investment will enable DAH to strengthen access to independent advice for disabled residents, respond to increasing demand, and improve outcomes

  around independence and inclusion.
- The organisation will seek multi-year funding to reduce reliance on single short-term grants and ensure stability for this core service.
- The service will be supported through a layered funding model combining

major multi-year grants with complementary funding from trusts and statutory sources.

DAH could explore opportunities to pilot new income models linked to personal budgets and direct payments. This may include working with partner organisations such as Disability Action Islington to test how elements of advice and support could be accessed through individual budgets. Any approach would need to be developed in partnership with Haringey Council to ensure alignment with local systems and commissioning arrangements. This approach could support the long-term sustainability of the Information, Advice and Guidance service by introducing complementary income alongside multi year grant funding.

DAH will also explore opportunities for statutory or partnership funding where the IAG service contributes to reducing demand on health and social care services.

Priority 2a — Commissioned Services (Direct Payments Tender)

Why this matters

- Key route to long-term, sustainable income multi year funding

What is needed

- Strong tender submission
- Capacity to deliver services effectively

Priority 2b — Capital Funding for Independent Living Centre (£250k)

Why this matters

- Creates a long-term accessible community asset
- Expands DAH's reach and impact

What is needed

- Capital funding for building conversion and equipment
- Confirmation of building (via local authority)

Priority 3 — Campaigns & Policy Role (~£60k per year)

Why this matters

● Strengthens DAH's influence and systems change work

What is needed

● Dedicated funding for a new role
● Clear outcomes linked to impact and policy change

Priority 4 — Training & Earned Income Growth

Why this matters

● Creates unrestricted income
● Supports long-term sustainability

What is needed

● Additional staff capacity
● Accreditation
● Development of a lived experience trainer pool

4. Case for Support

The Need

Disabled people in Haringey face ongoing barriers to independence, access, and inclusion. Demand for support continues to grow, while funding remains uncertain and often short-term.

Without sustained investment:

● Essential services risk instability

● Capacity remains stretched
● Opportunities to increase impact are limited

The Organisation

DAH is a user-led organisation providing:

● Advice and advocacy
● Peer support

- Community services
- Training and awareness
- A strong voice for disabled people

It is trusted locally, rooted in lived experience, and growing in reach and reputation.

Why Invest Now

DAH is at a critical point where:

- Demand for services is increasing
- Opportunities for growth are emerging
- Strategic investment can unlock long-term sustainability

What Funding Will Enable

- Stability for essential services
- Growth in reach and impact
- Development of sustainable income streams
- Increased influence and systems change
- Creation of accessible community infrastructure

Core Message

DAH is a trusted, user-led organisation with strong foundations and clear priorities. Investment now will stabilise essential services and enable sustainable growth and long-term impact.

5. Capacity & Sustainability

- Current Pressures
- Limited staff capacity
- Potential loss of Ability Hub – or cost of maintaining the Ability Hub
- Short-term funding cycles
- Unfunded core costs
- Key Capacity Needs
- Campaigns and policy capacity

- Training and development capacity
- Fundraising time and planning
- Systems to support income generation
- Systems Required
- A simple funding pipeline tracker
- An evidence and case study bank
- Full cost recovery budgeting
- A basic funder relationship log
- Sustainability Approach

DAH will:

- Plan funding proactively rather than reactively
- Build and maintain a structured funding pipeline
- Apply full cost recovery to all funding applications
- Pursue commissioned income where viable and aligned

6. Implementation Priorities

Next 3 Months

- Prepare for Direct Payments tender
- Begin monitoring and early planning for future IAG funding
- Progress Independent Living Centre discussions
- Develop Campaigns & Policy role

Next 6–12 Months

- Submit priority funding applications
- Develop and pilot training offer
- Progress capital funding

7. Approach to Funding

DAH will:

- Focus on fewer, higher-quality applications
- Prioritise multi-year and core funding
- Build relationships with funders before applying
- Align funding activity with organisational capacity
- Sequence applications to avoid pressure during key delivery periods

Final Statement

This strategy provides a clear framework for securing sustainable funding.