I am a support worker for people with learning disabilities.

I think that the effects of cuts have not yet been fully felt.

In Liverpool, some people I know with have multiple and profound disabilities have had access to day services reduced. They have also had funded hours reduced leading to increased social isolation and more stress as they need to stay at home – sometimes sharing support with flat mates that they dislike or have little in common with.

Charities providing day services have had the rates cut making it impossible to provide a safe service that gives interesting activities. For example one service used to provide one to one to allow disabled people access to supported employment – this is no longer possible as the council only pays £26 per day per client for a 7 hour day.

Individuals are finding it harder as PIP is less money per week than DLA and with much stricter requirements. Universal credit has hit some families.

Also families with disabled kids seem much worse off.

And the so called bedroom tax rarely takes in to account the extra space needed for disabled equipment. I have heard of some families being forced to move out of specially adapted accommodation because of this – which is very short sighted. I think anyone who has any kind of adapted house because of their disability should be exempt from such cuts – not least because it may force the disabled individual into far more expensive full time residential care.

The access to work funding should be reassessed for deaf people as their interpreters are very expensive. If a grant is needed to pay highly trained staff that needs to be taken into account when setting the maximum rate. Minimum or average salary for a carer is totally irrelevant as this doesn’t meet the needs of the deaf person.

ILF closure has also hit hard and the replacement ring-fenced funding for one year does not go far enough. People with disabilities should have the right to live in communities and get out and about not be consigned to long stay care homes far away from family and friends.

18 January 2016