**Motion to prevent budget cuts to CAMHS**
**This ward condemns government cuts to local authority funding, and the impact that they have on our communities and on the most vulnerable residents.**

**London Borough of Lewisham has to find a further £45m cuts by 2019-2020 in addition to the cuts of £120m which have been made since 2010.**

**(Figures taken form parliamentary briefing.)**

This ward notes that Lewisham Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) have had a budget cut of £94k this year and now face a further cut of at least £150k over the next 2 years from Lewisham Council funding to their core mental health team.

This is in addition to so called ‘improvement saving’ (CIPS) budget cuts by the NHS Trust, also estimated to be £150k over the next 2 years.

Lewisham CAMHS is a key service providing highly skilled interventions for young people affected by mental health issues and working closely with parents, carers and schools to support them.

These combined cuts could lead to a reduction of up to 6 skilled clinicians in an already hard-pressed service.

Lewisham as a borough has a high number of risk factors for child mental heath problems, made worse by austerity over the last 8 years. These include higher levels of poverty, greater numbers of Looked after Children, children witnessing domestic violence, children involved in the criminal justice system and the number of parents with mental health or substance misuse issues.

These cuts are to the main team providing assessment and treatment for children and young people experiencing high levels of anxiety, depression and self harm will lead higher thresholds and to even longer waiting lists.

This in turn leads to greater distress for young people and their families, more crisis presentations in A&E and more hospitalisation as problems go untreated.

**We call upon Lewisham Council to support the campaign against cuts to Child Mental Health Services and to stop the proposed cuts to the Lewisham CAMHS budget**