**PRESS RELEASE – IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CRUTCH – Big Lottery fund Help Through Crisis project**

Citizens Advice Haringey is thrilled to announce they have been successful in their application for Big Lottery funding for the Help Through Crisis programme.

Lynn Hannah (Chief Executive) said “ This is such an achievement for Citizens Advice Haringey and I am delighted that we have been given an opportunity over four years to assist people in Haringey who are the most vulnerable. The CRUTCH Project will make a significant difference through support with agencies and local communities for local people”

CRUTCH will be a new four year, £1/2 million project that will provide residents of Haringey Borough with the practical help and support they need to overcome immediate difficulties and the advice and expertise to help them take back control of their lives.

Alice Webster (Project Manager) said “I am excited and proud to be part of such an amazing project and to be able to continue supporting communities in Haringey, achieving results such as we had for Tina from Wood Green where our intervention prevented homelessness of a disabled person.”

Tina said: “I thought my world was ending. You have changed my outlook totally and helped me to retain my sanity. If you hadn’t have helped me, I would have lost my home and had nowhere to live.”

Significant numbers of people in the Borough experience poverty and severe deprivation; financial and digital exclusion; homelessness; poor mental and physical health; substance and alcohol misuse; high crime, unemployment and domestic violence.  Over the last few years, one of the most worrying trends is the significant increase in people experiencing a situation where their basic needs such as food, shelter, fuel and basic health and/or social care are not being met.

CRUTCH will be rooted in the community and draw on the strengths and expertise of people with life experiences, involving service users in the development, delivery and evaluation of its’ services; providing targeted advocacy and advice; offering practical help to address immediate crises; proactively targeting people who have most difficulty in engaging with services and collaborate with partner organisations to bring together a range of proven approaches.

For more details about this exciting new project, please contact Alice Webster on: 020 8347 3119 or alice.webster@haringeycabx.org.uk