

Scottish Socialist

Party

COUNCIL WORKERS VOICE

**STRIKE SOLID - keep
chasing the councillors!**

SSP PUBLIC MEETING

for all strikers & carers

**@ Laurie's Bar, King St, Trongate
Thursday 1st Nov**

**@ 1.30ish (straight after the DEMO out-
side Council meeting)**

Discuss the way ahead for a victory

Three weeks out and the strike is absolutely rock solid! The courage, determination and flair shown by the 260 Day Service strikers and their supporters is something to be proud of. And it has put the hard-nosed Labour council on the run! As workers were forced to take strike action to stop savage pay cuts, one arrogant council boss told a UNISON officer that they *might* meet the union in 6 weeks - but only then on the pre-condition that the union had accepted the re-design of the service which the council want to impose - without any consultation with staff, service users or carers. **But the powerful impact of the strike has forced the Council to talk to the union.** It is the strike's unity - and the support it has won from carers, fellow trade unionists and socialists - which has won this breakthrough. For over 2 weeks the council refused to negotiate, whilst spinning lies in their hired media about wanting to meet the union. Now the crunch question is whether the Council are serious about finding a solution without detriment to workers' wages and disabled people's services. **They have one simple solution - reverse the pay**

cuts, put staff in the proper Role Profiles that match their skills and experience - and THEN carry out a real, genuine consultation with staff AND carers/parents/service users about how to IMPROVE the service.

Improvement does NOT mean CUTS! Pay cuts is not only reprehensible from a so-called Labour Party that gets £millions off unions like UNISON. It is also a short route to demoralising staff, losing trained professionals. Or is that what Labour actually wants? - to then replace them with under-trained agency workers and people with only a year's experience?!

Closure of 7 out of the 12 Day Care Centres is a throwback to the past - NOT a progressive step forward. The Council should be upgrading and investing in the Day Care centres - not shutting them down to throw people out to wander the streets and shopping centres.

The magnificent unity of strikers and carers needs to be sustained. **Keep chasing the councillors** with demos, petitions, emails, at their surgeries - make them feel the hot breath of your anger at their cuts.



"There is not one carer or service user that does not support the staff. I urge all - carers, service users, staff - to stand up and be counted and tell the Glasgow council that we have to be consulted. They can take away our £1 allowance but they cannot take away our right to be heard."

Evelyn McIvor, parent/carer at carers' meeting

"I miss my Centre. I miss you, the staff. I hope you are back soon. The council should listen, not cut your pay. Listen to us, we are adults, not children."

Cheryl, a service user @ demo @ Labour councillors' meeting

JOIN the SSP - Suite 308, 93 Hope St, Glasgow G2 6LD

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31Oct07

Scottish Socialist Party - council workers VOICE

"We are not striking for more money - only for no cuts to our existing pay.

Some of us have worked 20 or 30 years in day care services. We can talk to service users about when their parents were alive. We give these people their history back.

We trained Support Workers; they have stuck by us and come out on strike with us.

The council got us to train agency staff. They'd soon

leave and then be replaced by new agency staff. That way they got to know service users. Looking back, we trained people to replace us in our jobs! The council see it as a cheaper service.

We have Day Centres, land and property which belongs to the city and service users now. The council want to take these away - for promises of sweeties and a few nights out for service users!"

A striker in north Glasgow

"People stay in this job. You build relationships with the people you work with. They come to us at 18 or 19, when they've finished school, and we care for them for the rest of their life. Some of these families have been coming to us for 20 years. We're close. People with Downs Syndrome, for example, have shortened lives. There are people who I've worked with since they were children who would be considered elderly now.

You realise that we are their memories.

Their relationship with us can last longer than their relationship with their parents.

Women have been underpaid by the council for decades. But they're taking money from some women to pay back what they've stolen from others.

We've got to be up for the long fight. We'll take it as far as we have to."

4 strikers with 81 years combined experience in job.



Support for the strikers is massive...

The media has blanked out the strike after good initial coverage. The *Evening Times* acts like the Labour council's in-house journal. TV cameras cover demos, do interviews - then carry nothing!

The best way to counter this scandalous news distortion - which the council relies on - is to take to the streets and workplaces with leaflets, megaphones and collecting buckets. And plenty of the above has been carried out! Over £7,000 has been collected this way. Thousands of people have heard the strikers' case.

SSP members in several trade unions are spearheading workplace collections, including council depts. In the civil service union, PCS, workplace collections across Greater Glasgow are planned. Likewise amongst university staff. **Now is the time to keep up the pressure on the Council - keep building public support - beat the media blackout!**

SSP- the workers' party

It is the SSP - and ONLY the SSP - that has fought since 1998 to abolish the Council Tax and tax the rich their fair share in our progressive income-based Scottish Service Tax - which would benefit 80% of Scots AND raise an extra £800m for local jobs and services.

For free school meals for every child. To scrap all NHS prescription charges. To get rid of all anti-union laws - used to break up the unity and solidarity of workers.

To end war. To scrap Trident - use the £100bn saved on health, education, housing, services and a free public transport system.

For an independent socialist Scotland that puts the millions before the millionaires.

- **free healthy school meals and quality childcare for all**
 - **£8 minimum wage for all over 16 - equal pay for women**
 - **scrap the Council Tax - tax the rich**
 - **free public transport for all**
 - **100,000 new public sector houses over 4 years for affordable rent**
 - **public ownership of banks, big industry, services and N Sea oil**
 - **an independent, nuclear free, socialist Scotland**
- Reject the parties of the millionaires - Labour AND SNP. Reject lies and sleaze.**
- Join the party of principled socialism - the SSP.**

Join the SSP - the party of public ownership, solidarity and socialism

name..... phone

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