

Scottish Socialist

Party



COUNCIL WORKERS VOICE

**EQUAL PAY
- NO CUTS
fight 4 funds**

stay UNITED!

After 4 weeks of rock-solid, united strike action, the Day Service strikers have taken the battle to parliament and the people, to workplaces and the streets - winning massive support from other workers and unions, with big collections that help sustain the fight for an end to Labour's cuts to pay, jobs and services.

In their desperation, the cynical council is likely to step up efforts to turn carers against staff. The pressure facing carers and service users is a harsh reminder of how invaluable the Day Service workers are, why they deserve the pay they get - and why it is more urgent than ever that the brilliant unity in action of strikers and carers is sustained.

Keep up the pressure on the councillors - unity is strength.



CommonWealth? Equal pay? *great ideas! Join the SSP.*

Glasgow's Labour leader Stephen Purcell is in Sri Lanka claiming he's all for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Meantime he is leading the attack on council workers' wages and the services they provide. He makes a mockery of the word 'commonwealth' - not to mention his claims to want investment in Glasgow.

- how can pay cuts of £3-6,000 for professional, caring staff add to the common wealth?

- how can cuts to disabled people's buses, allowances and Day Care Centres pretend to be an investment in the city's people?

Instead of cutting pay, jobs and services as a means of implementing so-called equal pay on the cheap, the council should join the trade unions, carers, service users and people of Glasgow in a mass campaign for extra funding from the Scottish government to ensure equal pay, no job cuts and expanded services.

The battle to protect pay, jobs and services in Day Care is part of the bigger jigsaw.

Under New Labour, workers suffer obscene inequalities of wealth.

- women workers still suffer 12.6% less pay on average than men

- the top 10% of earners enjoy incomes above £47,757 - the bottom 10% suffer wages below £12,126

- fatcat bosses of the FTSE 100 companies enjoyed rises of 37% last year - to an average £3million EACH - that's over £1,500 an hour!

- these bosses 'earn' 99 times as much as 'their' workers.

The Scottish Socialist Party has given 100% support to the Day Service workers' strike throughout. We will do all we can to help win protection of pay, AND the services for disabled people.

But we also appeal to strikers to join us in fighting the bigger battles against the Grand Canyon that separates rich from poor, workers from fatcat bosses. Against capitalist profiteering.

- For equal pay for women - without a single penny off men's pay.

- For a national minimum wage of at least £8 an hour for all over 16.

- For public ownership and democratic control of oil, banks, big industry, telecomms, all services - to establish a *real* Commonwealth of riches and resources - for an independent socialist Scotland.

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

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8Nov07

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Scottish Socialist Party - council workers VOICE

“We are strong, solid and determined to win. People are saying that after losing a month’s pay there is no point in going back now, we have got to stick it out and win.

The council need to take a good look at themselves. They are a disgrace. The strike forced them to meet us last week, but they have only met the union once in the whole of the 4 weeks. We are saying they should sit down with the union for as long as it takes to resolve this issue.

The fact the Council has failed to meet with us shows just what they think of the vulnerable service users and their carers.

Day Service workers in Edinburgh have told us that the model being proposed by Glasgow Council has already been tried out in Edinburgh, and it has been a disaster. Centres have been closed and people left to wander the streets.

We are determined to see this through. People

have blossomed from the experience of the strike. Big numbers have been knocking their pans in building support, speaking at meetings, collecting, demonstrating, and we are still united and strong. In fact strikers are quite upbeat, despite the shameful failure of the Council to meet with us. Media coverage has begun to pick up.

Carers are strong in their support of us. Some of them travelled through to the Scottish parliament with strikers to meet MSPs. Carers are furious with head of Social Work David Crawford. **We sympathise with the carers, but the Council needs to give us our proper Role Profiles so we can get back to work.**

We have raised over £17,000 in collections so far, which goes to show the support we have.

We are not against the Commonwealth Games, but we want fair pay and investment in services to the disabled and vulnerable in this city, as well as in the Games.”

Alison Kelly, UNISON Day Care stewards sec.



Support for the strikers is massive...

The media has for weeks 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 £17,000 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

address.....

.....email.....

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