



Issue 3 - October 2012

Lambeth Council Worker

A Workers' Liberty local government bulletin

www.workersliberty.org • lambeth@workersliberty.org • 0207 394 8923

Bulk of cuts still to come - get ready for class war.



According to the *Centre for Policy Studies*, whose findings were published in the *Daily Mail* on 27th August, the Coalition government has only made 6% of the cuts in public spending planned in this Parliament

Whether the *Mail* is using the figure to bash the Tories for not being sufficiently vicious in carrying out the austerity program is another matter.

What matters is that the vast majority of cuts the government intend to make before 2015 are still to come.

Local Government, especially in areas like inner-city London, is going to take a further hammering.

On 20th October, the Trade Union Congress is organising a national demonstration.

So far, the trade unions have been extremely sluggish in responding to these attacks.

Similarly, the Labour Party has failed to put forward any kind of real resistance or alternative to the cuts.

A single demonstration does not change much, but what it can do is reinvigorate people to go back to their local areas to begin to organise for the long fight ahead.

We need to build networks of working-class activists able to coordinate, build campaigns in their workplaces and communities.

We need to put forward the basic arguments: No cuts are necessary, we can fund and expand social provision by taxing the rich and seizing the wealth of the banks.

The South London feeder march is assembling at Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park by the Imperial War Museum at 10.30 am.

Lobby of council a success

On 19th September, the 'Lambeth Save Our Services' campaign held a lobby of the Labour-run council against the planned outsourcing of the borough's one o'clock clubs. LCW spoke to an activist from SOS:

"There were 100 people there, a mix of UNISON shop stewards, SOS people, libraries and one o'clock club workers and some parents and children who use services in the borough.

"It was quite lively and went better than we were expecting, as it was built a bit at the last minute and whilst most people were on holiday.

"The kids handed in giant letters and drawings about why not to cut services to Steve Reed which made it press worthy despite being quite small."

lambethsaveourservices.org for more info.

Workers' Liberty is a revolutionary socialist organisation active in the British labour movement.

Most of the LCW's content is written by council staff themselves. We produce workplace bulletins so that workers actually get a chance to discuss how their job, their industry and society more widely could be better organised - We make it all run and yet have no real say in how or why we do what we do.

Our aim is to replace this form of society; capitalism, where a tiny minority control the main decisions which affect our lives, with socialism - running things democratically in the interests of the majority (not a police state like China, North Korea, Cuba or the former USSR).

If you have an article or story you'd like to included in the next issue, or to take copies for your workplace, email lambeth@workersliberty.org with the subject line 'Lambeth Council Worker'.

Check out our weekly paper, *Solidarity*, and our website www.workersliberty.org

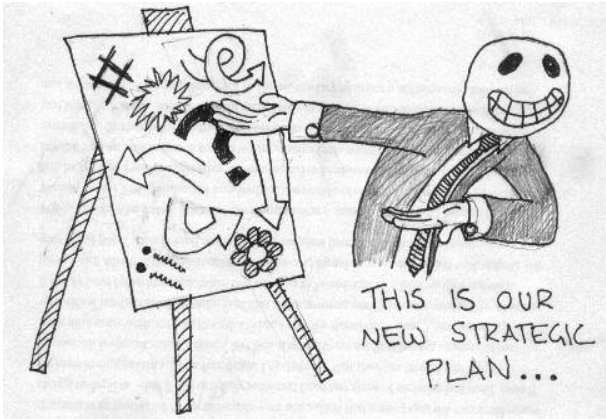


Lambeth Council Worker

A Workers' Liberty local government bulletin

www.workersliberty.org • lambeth@workersliberty.org • 0207 394 8923

From the Cop-out Council to the Cluster Fuck



Still trying to get your head around the Co-operative Council? Well hold on to your seats because Lambeth has another cunning plan to distract workers and residents from the cuts – Lambeth Council is abolishing departments and introducing “clusters”.

This exercise, which will involve the restructuring of the entire council, countless job losses and uncertainty for all; is not intended to save money.

What is the point? Who knows. Perhaps the overpaid consultants were running out of work. Perhaps the Cabinet need to feel like they are doing something whilst they are not fighting the government cuts. Perhaps someone at the top has become addicted to restructures.

If you know what a cluster is or why the council are introducing them, please contact Lambeth Council Worker.

Taking the Pee in CYPS

International House, was left with no toilet or washing facilities for two days in mid September.

Managers decided the best thing to do was to advise staff to go down the road and use facilities at Brixton Rec! This is completely unacceptable.

The Council must provide you with toilets, somewhere to wash your hands and somewhere clean to eat and drink during breaks.

If you are working in a building where there are inadequate toilet or rest facilities contact your union straight away.

Adventure Playgrounds update

Last issue of Council Worker reported that Lambeth's Adventure Playgrounds had closed, as a result of contract breaches following their outsourcing last year.

The Evening Standard has since reported: “After a Lambeth Play Association worker was charged with sexually assaulting a child, a Lambeth council inquiry found the firm “failed to follow proper employment procedures”.

LPA will no longer run seven playgrounds. A document sent to councillors said the company failed to follow guidelines requiring it to tell the council of “disclosures” arising from Criminal Records Bureau checks on 11 staff, and claimed risk assessments were not completed on 12.”

Outsourcing and privatisation have a long history of being followed by health and safety breaches and people being put at risk. This safeguarding failure and the fact the Council discovered it not from its contract monitoring but following a police complaint, show the council must halt the outsourcing of the other “Early Adopters”.

Art competition

Council Worker has learnt that the Council's Leadership Network invited Creative Connection (Southbank's resident artists group) to paint “a visual image of the thoughts, feelings and ideas around the room as they discussed the cooperative journey.” The resulting artwork is being toured around council buildings.

We believe art is for everyone and know that many workers at Lambeth have strong thoughts and feelings about the cooperative council, so we're inviting you to send in your artists impressions of the cooperative council and we will feature the best efforts in our next issue.

email lambeth@workersliberty.org with the subject line ‘Lambeth Art Competition’.