

Half the job centres in Glasgow targeted

FIGHT THE OFFICE CLOSURES

The announcement that 8 job centres in Glasgow are targeted for closure is a massive attack, and one we can't take lying down.

We need to meet this attack with an urgent programme of coordinated political and industrial action.

The DWP will try to say that nobody will lose their job but the truth is this is a massive attack on our working conditions. If you are relocated to another office this could affect your travel costs, childcare arrangements and personal life. For some people relocation may not be an option and in practise they will be forced to leave.

The continuous reductions in staffing have put enormous pressure on workloads in our offices. Most of us are working to capacity. We face continual restructuring. Universal Credit has brought new ways of working, increased caseloads and poor IT systems. The new working pattern planning, the so-called 'Tent Poles', has caused problems across the country. There is low morale across the DWP.

What about the service?

This is also an attack on some of the poorest areas in the city. How does withdrawing the job centre help people who are desperately looking for work? How will forcing single parents and ESA claimants to travel long distances help them? With claimants being forced to travel greater distances there will be more tension and more incidents in our offices.

The government have a disgusting track record in their treatment of claimants, as depicted in Ken

Loach's recent film I, Daniel Blake. This latest attack shows the contempt they feel towards working class people.

CSCS

To cap it all the government have imposed significant cuts in redundancy pay that will affect people who take voluntary redundancy, or face compulsory redundancy. This was massively rejected by PCS members in the recent ballot. With office closures across the civil service they want to make it cheaper to get rid of us.

Can we stop the closures?

Despite their bluster the Tory Government are weak. Theresa May's government has a majority of just 12 and has had to make repeated U-Turns in the six months since she became Prime Minister. Serious resistance can save our offices.

Only recently the threat of industrial action in UC service centres saw management forced to retreat over festive leave and guarantee increased staff. The second attempt to privatise the Land Registry has failed after a PCS campaign against it. There are ongoing disputes in EHRC and BIS.

Urgent action

The union has rightly condemned the proposal to close half the

offices in Glasgow. There are plans for a political campaign involving MSPs, MPs etc. SNP leader Angus Robertson has already raised the closures in Prime Minister's Questions. This is all good, but if we are to stop the closures we need to take action. We need an industrial action ballot across the city. We need walkouts, targeted action and extended action.

In the coming weeks there will be a massive office closure programme announced across the country. Glasgow can lead the way in resisting the closures. We should be calling for coordinated national strike action across the DWP.

This sort of campaign has the power to defeat the closure programme.

**Glasgow
Unite the Resistance
meeting
Support the Strikes
Solidarity can Win!
Tuesday 13th December
@ 6pm**

Avant Garde, 34-44 King Street,
Merchant City, Glasgow, G1 5QT

Speakers include:
Durham Teaching Assistants,
Glasgow Homeless Caseworker,
Strikers from Glasgow ICT &
Janitors disputes, Cheryl Gedling
PCS (pc)

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PCS Dec16

Circulation 020 7819 1171
Editorial 020 7819 1180

