



**BOURNEMOUTH & POOLE  
ANTI CUTS COALITION**

*We reject the cuts as simply malicious ideological vandalism  
hitting the most vulnerable the hardest - Join us in this struggle*

# Workfare is Unfair

At a time when there are over 2.5 million people out of work and less than half a million vacancies, the underlying founding principle of the Welfare State to provide people with social insurance to give them dignity and an income when out of work or incapacitated has never been more important. It is imperative that we avoid the demonising and bullying that dominates the welfare debate and oppose the government's workfare schemes that will have dire consequences for everyone, not just the unemployed.

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## **“Workfare”: It means people forced to work unpaid**

There are 5 government schemes that involve unpaid work placements, The Work Programme, Mandatory Work Activity, Community Action Programme, Sector Based Work Academics and Work Experience. Unemployed people of all ages are sent on these placements which range from 2 weeks to 6 months. All 5 of these schemes use ‘sanctions’ – the removal of welfare benefits – to compel people to undertake unpaid work. For more information please visit:

**[www.boycottworkfare.org](http://www.boycottworkfare.org)**

- Workfare affects everyone – it will erode everybody’s pay, working rights and conditions
- Workfare does not increase people’s chances of finding work. Making people work for nothing will not solve the unemployment crisis nor will it reduce the costs of welfare. Those on the schemes are still paid benefits. Additionally, the Work Programme alone is expected to cost **£5billion**.
- People face destitution if they are ‘sanctioned’ for not taking part
- Not only are the people forced on placements open to exploitation by unscrupulous employers but 2 of the major providers, A4E and Working Links, are currently under investigation. Written evidence submitted to Parliament shows how an “unethical culture” led to “systemic fraud”.
- Unpaid work placements are being used by a vast array of employers from charities, local authorities and hospitals to large corporate high street retailers, both in non union and unionised workplaces. Workfare is being used to boost the profits of big companies and private Work Programme providers at the expense of taxpayers.
- **If jobs are there to be done, people should get the rate for the job, instead of being part of a growing, publicly funded, unpaid workforce which, apart from being immoral, actually destroys paid jobs.**
- Campaign groups, such as Boycott Workfare, are empowering the unemployed by informing them of their rights and how to resist. People are being asked to share information of their experiences and where workfare is being used. Trade Union branches are being asked to sign a pledge which can be found on the Boycott Workfare site or emailing [info@boycottworkfare.org](mailto:info@boycottworkfare.org)
- **Workfare is wrong; it’s up to all of us to stop it. If you lose your job you could find yourself on a workfare scheme. People sent to do unpaid work at your workplace could cost you your job. So please, help yourself and all those being exploited and get involved.**

**BOYCOTT EXPLOITATION – BOYCOTT WORKFARE**