



BOURNEMOUTH & POLE ANTI CUTS COALITION

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

Workfare and You

Bankers are receiving millions in bonuses

The govt is full of millionaires

Yet you may soon be forced to work for no money

Workfare means people like you forced to do unpaid work placements for up to 6 months. Politicians wouldn't work for six months for no pay so why should you?

Forced unpaid work means giving millions to those with millions but it will not provide a paid job for you.

By forcing people to work for no wages, multi million pound companies use workfare schemes to replace paid positions. They can now get staff for free, so why pay them? Local authorities are utilising this free labour at a time when hundreds of thousands of employees are being laid-off and also charities.

The providers who run the schemes, such as A4E and Working Links, are making vast profits from the misery of unemployment and are currently under investigation for systemic fraudulent abuses of the workfare schemes.

People across the country are finding ways to challenge workfare. Tell people you know who might be affected that there are ways to fight back. Share information by contacting Boycott Workfare or BPACC. The more we know, the stronger we all are. Look after yourself and stay in touch. **Turn over this leaflet for facts and advice**

www.boycottworkfare.org || info@bpacc.co.uk

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Know Your Rights

FACT: As a result of the Boycott Workfare campaign, "sanctions" for leaving unpaid work placements on the Work Programme, Work Experience or Sector-based Work Academies have been temporarily suspended.

FACT: Did you know that the only personal data you need to share with a Work Programme provider are 1) your referral letter and 2) signing book?

FACT: You do not need to give them bank details, passport, driving licence or utility bills.

FACT: You do not need to share personal information with them or give them a copy of your CV.

Know Your Rights on the Work Programme

FACT: Did you know the Jobcentre can postpone starting the Work Programme for 90 days if you have a job interview or are expecting to work soon?

FACT: You do not have to sign any Work Programme provider documents or forms?

FACT: Did you know that if you are on another Jobcentre scheme, pregnant or a survivor of domestic violence, you do not have to do the Work Programme.

Visit consent.me.uk website for more information about your rights

Don't volunteer for Work Experience

There is a risk that once you volunteer for Jobcentre 'work experience' it becomes mandatory. Although the government appears to have made some concessions regarding the Work Experience scheme: there are still sanctions – both direct and indirect – that you may face. **Make sure this doesn't happen to you:**

- Do not agree to volunteer for the Jobcentre's 'work experience' – it quickly becomes forced unpaid labour.
- If you want to do work experience, find something that *really* is voluntary.
- If you are sent on the scheme, you must turn up on the first day but you do not face sanctions if you leave within the first week (unless this is due to misconduct).

Avoid Mandatory Work Activity

People have been referred for MWA simply because they have challenged their advisor. But there are strict DWP guidelines which you can use to challenge any referral. You do not have to go on this scheme if:

- You are currently working (paid or voluntary)
- You are undertaking employment related study / training
- You are taking part in or recently completed another "employment measure"
- The reason given is you have a lack of recent work experience
- You are being referred because your advisor thinks you haven't been meeting your Jobseeker's agreement

You are not alone. Boycott Workfare was formed by people like you. Help yourself and get involved.

www.boycottworkfare.org || info@boycottworkfare.org

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