

PCS INDEPENDENT LEFT

DWP Group Conference
2010

DWP CONFERENCE BULLETIN - TUESDAY 18 MAY 2010

Welcome to day two of conference. Today's agenda is packed with motions covering a wide range of issues. As yesterday we ask delegates to vote with your mandate and consider voting with us if you agree with the things our delegates have to say. This bulletin cannot cover all the issues for debate but we hope we have identified some of interest to you.

Job Security for All

Some delegates will remember when the union opposed the use of casuals and fixed term appointments on principle. We need to get back to this position. All our members should be entitled to job security. All staff should be recruited in line with equality principles. Taxpayers money should not be wasted on training people who quickly return to the dole. This issue needs to be given higher priority by the incoming leadership. We must not allow a situation like the one we are presently in, to arise again. The leadership should have detailed negotiations about recruitment and deployment of staff and involve members in a fight for job security for all.

Family Friendly Policies.

Some of what the employer offers is quite good on paper, but this means nothing if member's working days are being so tightly monitored that there is no real flexibility. The incoming leadership must not negotiate these policies in the abstract but must hold the employer fully to account if members are not given real opportunities to properly combine their personal responsibilities and their working lives.

Health and Safety

The present leadership must take responsibility for failures in this area. Local health and safety reps are not supported properly in the risk assessment process. Support any motions in this section which seek to improve our own organisation as well as those which address the employer's failings.

"Club Caucus 2010"
Independent Left Social

See any Independent Left member for tickets

Union organisation

Of course delegates should support motions which seek to build the union. However the present leadership should be reminded that people are more likely to join an active union which supports local disputes and takes concerns of members seriously.

Learning

The present leadership is desperate to get approval for a new DWP agreement which will reduce the already inadequate and potential unlawful restriction which are put on Union Learning Reps. Delegates should support any motions which seek to improve access to learning for all members, but be wary of any motions which limit our ability to put forward the learning agenda in workplaces.

Negotiations

The Independent Left believes in open negotiations with management. The motion on the agenda is just one small step towards that but the present leadership is still opposing it. We should not prioritise a comfortable relationship with national management over the right of sub paying members to know what is being discussed in their name. Secrecy at national level puts local activists in an impossible position, trying to answer questions on the union's behalf when we have not been given any information ourselves. Support the motion and any reference back and tell the leadership to be honest with members and activists.

A United Approach

There are several motions at this conference about individual terms and conditions in CMEC and in different parts of DWP. All motions seeking to improve things should be supported. However it should not just be a case of rousing speeches and agreement at conference. The incoming leadership has to enter into serious talks with Departmental management and involve members in a campaign to bring all our terms and conditions back in line. CMEC members were promised protection if they remained in the DWP Group. So far this arrangement appears to be failing them. The incoming leadership must seek to achieve minimum conditions for all involving members actively in the campaign if negotiations prove unsuccessful.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT PCS INDEPENDENT LEFT?

If you are tired of the spin and same old strategy of Left Unit. If you are opposed to deals that offer new members worse terms on entry. You should join the **Independent Left** – a new socialist voice for members in the Union. To find out more simply fill in this form and send to:

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