

# YOUR CHOICE BARNET CARE WORKERS CAMPAIGN

## ***WHY WE ARE STRIKING***

- ***To protect services for people with disabilities***
- ***For Fair Pay for the work we do***
- ***To bring this Frontline service back into the Council***

### **Background:**

In February 2012 Barnet Council transferred Learning Disability and Physical and Sensory Impairment services for adults to a Local Authority Trading Company (LATC) called Your Choice Barnet (YCB). Already in 2012 profound financial difficulties were identified to the tune of £1million, which is one fifth of its overall budget. YCB took out a commercial loan from Barnet Homes which it will be repaying with 6% interest. In the space of 18 months preceding this dispute there have been two attacks on our members terms and conditions and over 30 members of staff (a sixth of the workforce) have taken redundancy. Intensive talks with Barnet UNISON and YCB and 4 days of strike action failed to bring about a better "offer" than a 7.9% wage cut. An offer our members felt they could only refuse. It became clear that the 100% owner of YCB, Barnet Council, really pulls the financial strings for YCB and has conveniently handed on the responsibility of Barnet Council's pension deficit for the transferred staff to YCB. YCB would not have to make this pay cut if it did not have to cover the cost of the pension deficit created by Barnet Council.

This is not consistent for other contracted services. NSL, a private company, is not being saddled with financing the pensions' deficit.

**2014 YCB imposed a 9.5% cut in pay**

## What our supporters say

*“Your Choice Barnet care workers are totally committed to providing the best possible service for the people they look after. Their work is invaluable. It is about time their employers showed them the respect they deserve.”*

**Janet Leifer, Barnet Resident and member of CADDSS**

*“Disabled people are classified in law as people with a special characteristic, which our councillors fail to get through their uncaring heads. Care workers are also people with a special characteristic: they are special people with natural skills that cannot be taught, that should be valued. These staff should not be treated with the contempt they are currently experiencing. They are highly skilled people, and contrary to the opinions of our local councillors not ten a penny any Tom, Dick or Harriets.”* **John Sullivan, Barnet resident, parent**

## What are members are saying

“This isn’t about now, it isn’t about our wages, it isn’t about our services, its about the vulnerable people we care for”

“My job gets increasingly more stressful and I am rewarded with a 9.5% pay cut. The future of services for people with profound disabilities in Barnet is being threatened.”

“1% cut to Council tax but look what it is doing to our services.”



## How you can help

Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet. You can sign our

Petition which is online here

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-the-ongoing-destruction-of-services-for-adults->