

**75 years ago 200 unemployed men from Jarrow marched from their home in the North East to London to demand jobs and an end to their poverty conditions.**

This October Youth Fight for Jobs is marching their route again to demand:

- A massive government scheme to create jobs which are socially useful and apprenticeships which offer guaranteed jobs at the end - both paying at least the minimum wage, with no youth exemptions.
- The immediate reinstatement of EMA payments, expanding them to be available to all 16-19 year olds, and the scrapping of university fees.
- The immediate re-opening of all youth services that have been closed, including reinstating sacked staff.
- The scrapping of 'workfare' schemes - benefits should be based on need not forced slave labour.
- A massive building and renovation programme of environmentally sound, cheap social housing.

To get involved with the march and for updates from the marchers, see the website (opposite), email youthfightforjobs@gmail.com or call 020 8558 7947

This page was planned and written by young Socialist Party members in the West Midlands.

**March for jobs**

www.jarrowmarch11.com

# Anti-union, low paying, bullying bosses

## The reality of casualised work for young people

**A young fast food worker**  
Coventry

In Coventry the job market for young people is dire, with nearly 3,000 of us out of work. Even those young people who are 'fortunate' enough to get jobs end up working in dead-end jobs for low wages.

My first job, when I was 15, was chipping potatoes in my local chippy. I got paid a tenner a day - when a day was often over six hours - and the working conditions were terrible (and of course I was employed illegally - I had strict instructions on where to hide if the 'inspectors' came).

### Fast food chain

My current job is a slight step up in the world, however - I work for a famous fast food chain restaurant. Despite its regular occurrence in lists of 'great jobs', it's awful.

People work shifts of up to 15 hours, with a one hour break, and often won't move from their station for the whole shift. Sometimes this means people will be working by an extremely hot grill for 10 hours at a time.

Unsurprisingly, people have passed out from heat exhaustion before - the management response is to walk them to the crew room while the rest of us carry on working!

We're constantly told to work faster, and given scripts that we have to use to talk to customers. Yet at the same time we're told to smile and not talk like robots.

Whenever sales go down, manage-

ment cuts 'labour figures', meaning we all get less hours and we're expected to work even harder when we are in.

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We're not a unionised workplace, as the company is notoriously anti-union.

In America and Canada they have closed down restaurants where staff joined unions, and in France they framed a union organiser for armed robbery, after bullying him for months. They refuse to deal with unions, saying they "prefer to deal with staff on an individual basis".

This is a classic management tactic - individuals can be picked on, but you can't pick on an entire workplace. Also, as staff turnover is so high - a lot of people hate it so much they leave very quickly - people don't see the point of joining a union.

Like in most workplaces, some managers are fine - but some are bullies who victimise crew members, particularly women.



"I'm on £4.93 an hour - and that's after a pay rise!"

Due to the lack of union representation it is near impossible to do anything about these bullies - management is a 'boys' club', where if complaints are made they close ranks to protect each other.

### Health and safety

There are loads of accidents that are never reported, as despite the company rule that all accidents should be written down, managers see accident

reports as a waste of time.

This means that despite the regular injuries crew incur, safety measures are never brought in to prevent them happening again.

Finally, the worst aspect of the job - the money. I'm on £4.93 an hour - and that's after a pay rise! The promised two pay reviews a year never materialise - I've been there over three years and I've had one. Pay rises are as low as 3% - on my wage, that amounts to just 14p extra an hour.

That's why I support the Jarrow March for Jobs - because despite being lucky enough to have a job, young people deserve better than this.

We deserve to get a decent wage, to work in decent conditions, and to have the right to union recognition - and if they won't give us those things, we're not afraid to fight for them.

So Cameron - come and have a go if you think you're hard enough!

## Birmingham youth service ravaged by cuts

Young people have been hit hard by the cuts in Birmingham. On top of attacks to education like the scrapping of EMA and £9,000 tuition fees,

Birmingham city council has targeted numerous youth services.

The Connexions careers advice service has been slashed, with of-

fice closures and staff redundancies. Youth workers have also reported redundancies and closures of youth clubs and other activities and services for young people.

The Birmingham youth service is facing £3 million of cuts, which will lead to the closure of more than 40 youth projects in the city - over two thirds of the current total.

The impact these cuts will have was demonstrated by the riots that took place in Birmingham over the sum-

mer. With no prospects for a decent future, youth discontent is bound to boil over.

As the Jarrow March for Jobs passes through the Midlands, Youth Fight for Jobs activists will be holding a public meeting in Birmingham on Wednesday 19 October. Campaigns like this offer hope for young people, by building a united fightback against capitalist cuts.

**Tom Creek, Birmingham Socialist Party**

### Youth Fight for Jobs demands:

- The immediate re-opening of all youth services that have been closed, including re-instating sacked staff
- Huge investment into youth services, including training of many more youth workers. Every young person in the country should have access to support, advice and leisure facilities
- A building programme which includes parks, sports centres and youth clubs in every area and is carried out in consultation with young people and youth workers, along with the trade unions and community groups



photo Paul Mattsson

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**£10 (+ £2 p&p)**

Available in sizes: Men's S, M, L, XL, XXL and women's M, L  
Order online at [www.jarrowmarch11.com](http://www.jarrowmarch11.com) or send your order with a cheque made out to 'Youth Fight for Jobs' to PO Box 858, London E11 1YG