

Millions unemployed - workers and students must unite and fight!

Alex Moore
Jarrow marcher

Unemployment is now 2.62 million in the UK, and youth unemployment stands at 1.2 million - the highest number since records began. These figures came out shortly after the Jarrow March for Jobs finished in London on 5 November.

The march highlighted how young people are facing some of the worst of the economic crisis and the onslaught of the cuts, and these figures back up the grim truth.

The rise in youth unemployment demonstrates that this government of millionaires cares little for the future of working class young people. They are allowing jobs to disappear and cutting jobs in the public sector.

No answers

What are their answers? A "Work Academy" scheme was launched which provides 50,000 placements for the unemployed, but these are unpaid and only guarantee an interview at the end, no real prospects of a decent job. These are alongside existing 'workfare' schemes where people are forced into unpaid work to keep their dole. Companies are jumping at the chance to use this free labour handed to them by the government.

Lib Dem business secretary Vince

Cable has announced just 20,000 'apprenticeship initiative' funded placements for young people, but these will be based on the already poor wages of around £2.60 an hour, and there are nowhere near enough placements to go around.

Prime minister David Cameron has also pulled a (not so magic) rabbit out of the hat, he's promised £250 million to encourage businesses to start new training programmes, but the funding from this is diverted from colleges and other training providers.

Instead of pouring money into private hands to 'encourage' them to create training programmes, the government should listen to the demands of young people and the Jarrow March.

Why not take unemployed science graduates and give them training in green jobs? Why not nationalise manufacturing companies like Bombardier to save the thousands of jobs in local communities?

We want the government to:

- Create jobs
- Bring back EMA and scrap uni fees
- Save youth services
- Scrap workfare schemes
- Build affordable housing

Youth Fight for Jobs and Education will be organising all over the country to campaign for these things. The money exists in society; we bailed the banks out, so why don't we share the profits?

£120 billion is lost every year to



photo Paul Mattsson

tax evasion and tax avoidance, this money could be used to create jobs and services and provide training and education for young people.

We'll also be supporting the next stage of the struggle against this government's cuts. On 30 November the largest strike this country has seen for generations is set to take place. This is public sector workers,

including teachers and lecturers, taking action against cuts by refusing to work.

Workers have enormous potential power. On 30 June this year, when 750,000 workers took action, schools and colleges closed while queues formed in ports and airports. 30 November will be even bigger.

That's why young people need to

make sure we join the picket lines, rallies and demonstrations that take place on this day. This needs to be a strike day for students as well - to shut down education.

And the fight won't stop there. We need to build a mass movement of young people united with workers to fight the cuts and for our futures.

Mansfield - build houses, create jobs

Becci Heagney
Youth Fight for Jobs East Midlands organiser

2,000 young people in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire can't find work. Over 9,000 people in Mansfield are on the council housing waiting list. So why have building workers been thrown on the dole and work abandoned on 87 new flats and four houses?

For 100 years the ShoeCo site in the town centre made shoes and boots, at one time employing 1,000 people. It closed in 2004 and redevelopment was announced in 2006 "as part of a multi-million pound scheme to revamp Mansfield".

Five years later, the part-built flats are a symbol of a failed capitalist system. Last month work stopped when the developer went bust. Most of the external work is completed, although a supplier has repossessed some windows. Months of work are still needed for electricians, plumbers, joiners, plasterers and painters. This work could include proper training for young people, under trade union supervision.

But the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) refused the developer a new loan because the bankers have no confidence that the flats will be sold at a profit.

Yet in neighbouring streets there are hundreds of old terraced houses, many in need of modernisation and repair that private landlords refuse to carry out. Many people would jump at the chance of moving into a new flat.

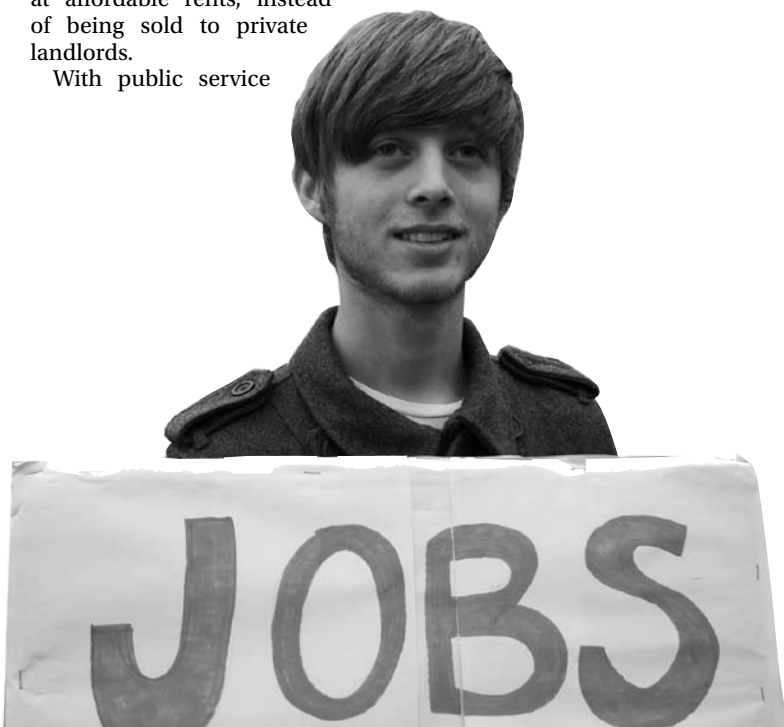
RBS paid out almost £1 billion in bonuses last year and is paying another £500 million this year. Its chief executive is 'rewarded' with £6.8 million a year. RBS is 84% state-owned, after £20 billion of taxpayers' money was used to stop it collapsing in 2008.

East Midlands Youth Fights for Jobs members who took part in the Jarrow March for Jobs have organised a protest demanding Mansfield district council take over the ShoeCo site and finish the work. The new homes should be kept in public ownership and let at affordable rents, instead of being sold to private landlords.

With public service

workers joining building workers on the dole queues, it's clear that fewer people will get mortgages to buy new flats! All cuts in public services must be reversed. It's bailouts for bankers and dole for workers. Why should we pay for a crisis caused by big business?

Join the protest:
Jobs and homes - not cuts
Saturday 26 November, 11am
Mansfield Market Place
Marching to ShoeCo building site



**Join Youth Fight
for Jobs and
Education today!**



**Text 'Join' plus your name and postcode to
07763192866**

See www.youthfightforjobs.com

Or get in touch with your regional organiser:

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