



Calderdale Trades Council Annual Report 2013-2014

Introduction

The Trades Council has been very active this year, both organising events in our own right and contributing to local campaigns, most significantly the campaign against the proposed changes to NHS services in Calderdale. We have continued to make steady progress in encouraging unions to affiliate and been able to support a number of local groups, events and fellow trade unionists involved in industrial action. The year ahead, with the general election, is going to be an important one for all trade unionists and our fight to defend employment rights and essential services for our members, and we look forward to playing our part.

Meetings

We have had 5 meetings of the Trades Council over the year with a regular and steadily building attendance. We have hosted speakers and discussions on: The Peoples' Assembly; The role of a workers' paper; The threat to the NHS; How to fight Ukip and at our last AGM, The role of Trades Councils in the TUC. In addition we have held 3 public meetings. The first, in March, to commemorate 30 years since

the miners' strike, attracted over 100 people. We also held a joint meeting with Huddersfield Trades Council to fight the NHS proposals and a meeting to build for the TUC Britain Needs A Pay Rise demonstration.

Affiliations and support

We are registered with the TUC as a Trades Council and attended the Yorkshire and the Humber TUC AGM this year. We have been active in supporting local and national campaigns. We renewed our affiliation to Cuba Solidarity and affiliated to the Yorkshire & Humber Pensioners Convention. We have made donations to Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign, local NHS campaigns and a number of cultural causes. We also donated to striking workers in Lambeth College UCU and Unison Doncaster Care UK workers. We keep in regular contact with local campaign groups including Calderdale People's Assembly, Calderdale 38 Degrees NHS Group, Band together for our NHS and Save Calderdale Royal Hospital.

Campaigning

In addition to the public meetings outlined above, we have been involved in a number of local and national campaigns. We attended the Regional TUC's Better Way demonstration at the LibDem Spring Conference in York and took part in a number of demonstrations and lobbies of the local council around both the NHS and the bedroom tax. We helped with transport to London for both the People's Assembly and the Britain Needs a Pay Rise demos. We also participated in the local feeder march for the Walk for the NHS and we organised a benefit to raise money for local NHS campaigning.

We now have our own website up and running - www.calderdaletuc.org.uk, a Twitter account @calderdaletuc and a Facebook page all of which we use to promote our own and other events.

Looking Ahead

Next year will be a critical one for trade unionists, with the general election in May. While the Trades Council is not affiliated to any political party, it is clear that the NHS will not survive another 5 years of the current cuts and privatisation. Many of our hard-won employment rights are also under threat, including proposed stricter rules on strike ballots. We need to discuss how to take these issues into our branches so that members can make informed decisions at the ballot box on 5th May.

We will continue to support local campaigns, particularly against cuts to jobs and services, and it would be good to hold an event to mark Workers' Memorial Day next year.

It has been encouraging to see more people representing more unions at our meetings and an increase in the number of affiliated branches. The officers will continue to work to increase affiliations further.

Tracey Howton, Secretary

Officers and Committee 2012-2013

Chair: David Draycott, Leeds Council Unite

Vice Chair: Deb Collett, Calderdale Unison (Until April '14)
Mark O'Neill, Unite Community (From June '14)

Secretary: Tracey Howton, USDAW Leeds Private Trade

Treasurer: Pete Keal, Equity Yorkshire Ridings General

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Phone: 01422 647170 (Tracey)

Web: <http://calderdaletuc.org.uk> Twitter: @calderdaletuc

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Calderdale-Trades-Council/522192154475876>

Calderdale Trades Council

Accounts for Year ended 31 October 2014

	£
RECEIPTS	
TUC Grants	1,250.00
Transport Receipts	488.00
Donations	422.30
Benefit Concert Receipts	200.35
Affiliation fees	120.00
Unpaid Cheque from 2012-13	100.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS	£2,580.65
PAYMENTS	
Campaign Support	2,365.85
Artists fees - benefit	300.00
Affiliation Fees etc.	185.00
Room hire	100.25
Postage, Print and Stationery	21.10
Travel	4.50
Other Expenditure	11.20

TOTAL PAYMENTS	£2,987.90

EXCESS OF PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS	(£407.25)
	=====

Statement of Balances at 31 October 2014

	£
Brought forward 01.11.13	6,464.22
Add surplus / deduct deficit for year	(407.25)
	=====
Net Branch funds 31.10.14	£6,056.97
	=====
Bank and cash balances 31.10.14	
Current account	6,027.71
Petty cash	29.26
	=====
Bank and cash	£6,056.97
	=====

Tracey Howton, Secretary

Pete Keal, Treasurer

Auditor's Report

We have examined the Accounts, Cashbooks, Cheque and Paying in books, Bank Statements, Invoices, Receipts and other financial documents of Calderdale Trades Council. In our opinion the Accounts and Statement of Balances give a true and fair view of Calderdale Trades Council's finances as at 31 October 2014 and of the excess of Payments over Receipts for the year then ended.

Deb Collett and Russell Dawson
Auditors

Treasurer's Report

Calderdale Trades Council Accounts to 31 October 2014 show that we spent £407.25 more than we received in income. Part of this should be offset by an anticipated TUC grant of £164. An increase in affiliation fees and donations together with maximising the TUC grants we are entitled to has led to a net increase in income of over £2,300 compared with last year. At the same time increased campaigning activity has meant that we have spend £2,399 more than last year.

We are fortunate that the Trades Council currently has assets that it can use to support the campaigns and struggles that our workplaces and communities face in these times of Austerity and Government cutbacks. While we can afford to spend more than we received in income this year, we will not be able to do so for ever. We will need to consider how we can raise additional finance so that we can continue to fund the policies and actions that we wish to pursue. Part of such a strategy will be to continue to maximise the TUC grants we are entitled to as well as to redouble our efforts to increase the number of Union Branches affiliated to Calderdale Trades Council together with considering increasing the affiliation fees that we request larger union branches to pay us.

Pete Keal, Treasurer

Affiliated Union Branches 2013-14

BFAWU Suma
Calderdale NUJ
Calderdale NUT
Calderdale Council GMB
Calderdale Council UNISON
CWU West Yorkshire

Equity Yorkshire Ridings General
FBU Region 4
Leeds Council UNITE
Leeds Unite Community
Unite Nestle
USDAW Leeds Private Trade