



Calderdale Trades Council Annual Report 2016-2017

Introduction

Calderdale Trades Council has had a busy year with highlights including the Sick of Being Skint? campaign and the Calderdale May Day programme. We now have 18 affiliated trade union Branches, welcoming two new affiliates during the year. We have supported trade unionists taking industrial action and a number of local campaigns. While our movement made good progress at the General Election, the years ahead are going to be important for all trade unionists in the fight for decent pay, to defend rights at work and essential services for our members. We are eager to play our part.

Campaigning

During Heart Unions Week in February we launched our **Sick of Being Skint?** campaign. This is our contribution to the fight for **all** workers to be paid at least £10 per hour. We urge workers, especially young workers, to join a union to press for better pay and conditions at work. Working with BFAWU and USDAW, we have taken campaign postcards to over 60 workplaces in Calderdale. We also hope to develop joint working with other unions to further this campaign.

We organised a #McSolidarity protest and leafletting to workers and the public at the McDonald's branch in Halifax Town Centre in support of BFAWU's #McStrike in September.

As part of the TUC's campaign for **Fair Pay for Public Sector Workers** we wrote to local papers and publicised Public Sector Pay Rallies in Leeds and London. Calderdale Trades Council wishes to work with the wider Trades Union movement to build the **campaign to scrap the Government's Public Sector Pay Cap** in our area.

We have continued to support **NHS** campaigns such as Hands off Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and Calderdale and Kirklees 999 Call for the NHS in opposing the proposals to reconfigure Hospital and Community Services in Calderdale and Huddersfield. We supported the **"It's Our NHS"** national demonstration in London in March, and made a donation towards transport costs to the demonstration. We attended the **'Yorkshire March to Fund our NHS'** demonstration organised by Health Campaigns Together in Leeds in April.

We organised **Action for Rail** leafletting at Brighouse station in January on the day rail fares went up. Action for Rail calls for public ownership, affordable fares and a properly staffed railway that is inclusive and accessible for all.

During the General Election campaign we supported Calderdale NUT's **Education Question Time** and distributed the union's leaflets calling for more investment in education at railway stations and door to door. We also publicised the **School Cuts Campaign's lobby of Parliament** in October.

We were represented at the **People's Assembly demonstrations** in London in July and in Manchester in October, the latter to coincide with the Tory Party conference. We also publicised both demonstrations.

We maintained our website, Twitter account and Facebook page to promote our own and other events.

Calderdale May Day



Calderdale has had little in the way of celebrations of May Day, International Workers' Day, for several years. In 2017, Calderdale Trades Council changed this with a week long programme of films, speeches, discussion, an exhibition, music and a local Labour Movement History Walk. We are beginning to plan a May Day 2018 programme. We wish to thank GMB, Pride Design and Print and Calderdale Libraries for their sponsorship and support. For more information go to: <http://calderdalemayday.org.uk>

Affiliations and Solidarity

We are registered with the TUC as a Trades Union Council.

We have supported CWU's **campaign against the closure of Todmorden Sorting Office** as well as the union's **Four Pillars of Security campaign** in the dispute with Royal Mail.

We supported **GMB's campaign to defend Foster Carers' terms and conditions** in Calderdale.

We have offered solidarity to **Nestlé** workers facing job cuts in Halifax and elsewhere in response to proposals to move the manufacture of Blue Riband biscuits to Poland.

We supported **Unite Community's National Day of Action Against Benefit Sanctions** in Huddersfield in March.

We participated in the **Trade Union Anti-Fracking Solidarity Day** in Kirby Misperton, North Yorkshire in November.

We continued to support **Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign's** call for a full public inquiry into the actions of the police at the Orgreave coking plant on 18 June 1984.

We have made donations to **BECTU section of Prospect Picturehouse, BFAWU #McStrike, PCS DWP Eastern Avenue Sheffield, PCS Equality and Human Rights Commission and Unite Birmingham Bin workers' strike funds.**

During the year, we also made donations to **Unite's Grenfell Tower Appeal**; for transport costs to the **Justice Now: Make it Right for Palestine Demonstration** in November; **Friends of Durham Miners Gala; People's Assembly; Venezuela Solidarity Campaign's No to Trump's Regime Change** appeal and the **London Recruits** film funding appeal.

We worked with UNISON Calderdale to commemorate **Workers' Memorial Day** in April including leafletting in Halifax. We would like to erect a permanent Workers' Memorial Day monument and preserve the plaque to a past Halifax Trades Council activist on the bench outside Northgate House.

We are affiliated to **Yorkshire and the Humber Pensioners' Convention. Dignity Action Day** takes place on 1 February and the Trades Council has agreed to approach both Calderdale MPs to request them to publicly sign the **National Pensioners Convention's Dignity Code.**

We are also affiliated to **Cuba Solidarity Campaign, People's Assembly, Stand Up to Racism, Venezuela Solidarity Campaign** and **War on Want.** During the year, we formally affiliated to the **Hands Off HRI campaign** as a trade union body.

Meetings

In addition to our May Day public rally, we have had 10 meetings of the Trades Council over the year. We have hosted speakers and discussions on: **GMB's Calderdale Foster Carers' campaign; BFAWU's Fast Food Rights Campaign; CWU on the proposed closure of Todmorden Sorting Office; Stand Up to Racism; St Augustine's Centre; the work of Halifax & District Rail Action Group, FBU on lessons from the Grenfell**

tragedy, Palestine 100 years after the Balfour declaration and Stronger Unions. The Trades Council also supported the Midlands TUC's **Dying to Work** motion.

Looking ahead

We hope that the 2017 AGM will elect a strong team of officers to take the Trades Council forward in the struggles ahead. We need every trade union branch with members living or working in Calderdale to affiliate to Calderdale Trades Council. We need to find more effective ways of engaging with local union branches and encouraging greater participation in shaping our work so as to strengthen our movement and our campaigning.

We will continue to support workers in struggle, local campaigns against austerity, cuts to jobs and services and to keep our NHS public - 2018 is the NHS' 70th anniversary.

Pete Keal, secretary

Officers and Committee 2016-2017

Chair: Neil Brearley, UNISON Calderdale (until Aug '17)
Vice-Chair: John Mooney, Bradford, Halifax and Huddersfield
Unite Community
Secretary: Pete Keal, Equity Leeds & Region General
Asst Sec: Rowena Fehilly, PCS MoJ Greater Manchester
Treasurer: Russell Dawson, Calderdale NEU, NUT Section

E-mail: info@calderdaletuc.org.uk

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

Twitter: @calderdaletuc

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/calderdaletuc>

Calderdale Trades Council

Accounts for year 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017

	£
RECEIPTS	
TUC grants	520.00
Affiliation fees	160.00
Donations	1,444.37

TOTAL RECEIPTS	£2,124.37
PAYMENTS	
Campaign support	679.00
May Day programme	637.52
Publicity and advertising	270.40
Affiliation fees, etc.	230.00
Room hire	336.08
Travel and subsistence	152.50
Postage, print and stationery	25.52
Bank charges	22.67

TOTAL PAYMENTS	£2,353.69

EXCESS OF PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS	(£229.32)
	=====

Statement of balances at 30 September 2017

	£
Brought forward 01.10.16	£5,617.40
Add surplus / deduct deficit for year	(£229.32)
	=====
Net funds 30.9.17	£5,388.08
	=====
Bank and cash balances 30.9.17	
Current account	5,379.82
Petty cash	8.26
	=====
Bank and cash	£5,388.08
	=====

Pete Keal, secretary

Russell Dawson, treasurer

Auditors' 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 30 September 2017 and of the excess of payments over receipts for the year then ended.

Jane Rendle and Mark Metcalf, auditors

Treasurer's report

Calderdale Trades Council Accounts to 30 September 2017 show that we spent £229.32 more than we received in income. The accounts reflect an increased level of activity during the year: this year we spent £2353.69 compared with £1937.57 in the previous year.

We are fortunate that currently the Trades Council has assets that it can use to support campaigns and struggles, an item of spending that looks set to rise given the increased combativity of the working class. However, this financial situation will not last for ever. We will need to consider how we can raise additional funds so that we can continue to support the policies and actions that we wish to pursue. Alongside methods we have traditionally used, we need to consider alternative fund raising.

Russell Dawson, treasurer

Affiliated Union Branches 2016-17

BFAWU Suma
Bradford Halifax and
Huddersfield Unite Community
Brighthouse General GMB
Calderdale NEU, NUT section
CWU Bradford & District
Amalgamated
CWU Manchester Combined
CWU North West No. 1
CWU West Yorkshire
Equity Leeds & Region General

FBU Calderdale Division
Leeds NUJ
PCS MoJ Greater Manchester
UCU University of Huddersfield
UNISON Calderdale
UNISON Kirklees
UNISON South West Yorkshire
Partnership Health
Unite Nestlé
USDAW Leeds Private Trade