

# CAMPAIGNING FOR CARE in social services—

## TRADE UNION MONITORING OF PRIVATISATION AGENCY STAFF

### MONITORING PRIVATISATION IN YOUR DEPARTMENT

These monitoring sheets are to be used to gather information on the scale of existing privatisation of services and work in your department.

This section is intended to build a basic picture of how far the private sector has made inroads into your section or department. Ask a shop steward or worker from each section to fill in this form. See the checklist of jobs and workplaces at the end of the pack to remind yourselves of the different kinds of work done in your department.

### ORGANISING NOTES

Your department will have a record of all the contracts made with firms and consultants. Formally ask for a copy of this list or permission for the trade union representatives to have access to the records and compile their own information. You will want to know:

- name of the firm
- type of work
- amount of contract

This list will help you fill these sheets in. Contact the NALGO Branch — they may have contacts in the relevant section who will be able to help you with information.

- ★ Ensure you have a shop steward or worker in each section who has agreed to fill in the form.
- ★ Try to encourage those who are not shop stewards to be involved.
- ★ **Try to get as much accurate information as possible. Don't be put off by these questionnaires: the idea isn't to involve you in a lot of work. Fill in what you can and ask your colleagues at work to help. Once you've got the basic information you can identify the gaps and seek it out another way, for example:**
  - delegating two people to check council committee minutes
  - tabling questions for the next Joint Consultative Committees.
- ★ Report your findings to the local authority Joint Shop Stewards Committee and encourage trade union representatives in other departments to monitor privatisation.

Date of survey (week/month) .....

Name of section/department .....

Name of person completing survey (phone number) .....

**AGENCY STAFF** (an agency is a private organisation providing temporary or semi-permanent staff).

1. For what work or duties are agency staff employed in your section/dept? .....
2. How many agency staff are used per week? .....
3. On what basis are agency staff used—permanent?   
temporary?   
special circumstances?
4. Has the use of agency staff increased recently? .....
5. If there has been an increase in the use of agency staff what reasons are given by senior management? .....
6. Give the names of any agencies used. Please try to give the full name of the company. ....
7. Does the use of agency staff affect your ability to provide a service? .....
8. Give details and examples  
Has the Union reached an agreement on agency staff in your area? .....
9. **Have you any evidence on the quality of work or quality of service provided by these private agencies?** .....
10. How much time is taken by existing staff to show agency staff how to do their jobs? .....
11. How much time has been spent making good the mistakes, 'muddles' or poor service provided by private agencies? .....
12. Any other comments or additional information? .....

Use additional sheets of paper where necessary.