

# RED ALERT ALERT ALERT



Early Warning  
Card

## WHAT CUTS & PRIVATISATION MEAN

### If you are a worker:

- harder work for longer hours for less pay
- reduced sickness benefits, pensions and shorter holiday
- increasing unpaid labour
- redundancies and permanent loss of jobs
- greater use and exploitation of casual labour
- less job security and training
- worsening health and safety and welfare conditions
- little or no trade union organisation and representation

### If you are a user

- development of a two tier service — one for the rich and one for the poor
- poorer quality and less reliable services
- new and increasing personal charges for services
- less personal contact with staff
- more people excluded from going into council homes and being refused other forms of help
- heavier burden on women and friends and relatives
- increased guilt, worry and unhappiness
- less security for old age — no guarantee of continuing services
- less control over services

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### WHY THIS CARD?

All Social Services are under threat from cuts and privatisation. This card is just one part of NUPE's fightback plan. Every NUPE member is invaluable in this fightback.

Too often NUPE members have to react to events that have already happened. Yet you hear what's going on around you or notice anything out of the ordinary. Your information can be crucial in providing early warning of any threats. This card will help you use any early warning sign to your advantage.

### HOW TO USE IT.

Keep it with you — e.g. in your handbag, pocket or locker. Read it now and remind yourself of its contents regularly. If you can tick ANY box take the action proposed opposite.

1. Are councillors or officers considering any "value for money" or "efficiency" surveys ....
2. Have management or any other trade unionists mentioned any privatisation proposals recently? .....
3. Has there been any mention of privatisation which might affect Social Services on the radio or in the papers .....
4. Are there any plans:-  
to restructure your department? .....   
to change you job description? .....   
to change your duties? .....   
or to cut your hours? .....
5. Are there any proposals to bring private contractors into:  
catering .....  cleaning/caretaking ....   
transport .....  repairs/maintenance ..   
laundry .....  security .....   
meals on wheels .  kitchen staff .....

6. Or to:  
use agency staff?  
rundown residential homes in any way in favour of private homes .....
7. Are there any plans to use Manpower Services workers to do work you might normally do .....
8. Or, without union approval, to use volunteers carry out any of your duties .....
9. Or to hand over any Social Service work to charities and voluntary organisations .....
10. Have any company representatives from firms interested in privatisation visited your workplace .....
11. Or been contacting or entertaining officers and councillors .....

### WHAT TO DO NOW?

If you can tick a single box, action is needed:

1. Contact your steward or workplace rep.
2. Raise the issue at a workplace meeting and ensure that your steward raises it at the Branch Committee.
3. Make sure you and others affected attend the next branch meeting to discuss it.
4. Don't leave it to your union stewards or full time officials to take it further on their own. Privatisation threatens your job and the service to the community. So become involved.