

# CAMPAIGNING FOR CARE

*in social services—*

## TRADE UNION MONITORING OF PRIVATISATION

### PRIVATE CONTRACTORS

#### 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) .....

**PRIVATE CONTRACTORS**

(Whilst it is useful to have information on **all** contractors providing goods and services, priority should be given to services which could be provided by direct labour).

- 1. For which services are private contractors used in your department (e.g. cleaning, catering, building maintenance, security, transport etc.) .....
- 2. On what basis are private contractors used—permanently?   
temporary   
special circumstances
- 3. Has the use of private contractors increased recently? .....
- 4. If there has been an increased use of private contractors recently what reasons are given by management? .....
- 5. Give the names of any private contractors used in your department .....
- 6. How many workers are used by private contractors in your section/dept? .....
- 7. Was this work previously done by the council's own workers? .....
- 8. What is the cost of the contract? .....
- 9. Has any new equipment or new technology been installed or planned which could threaten your job? .....
- 10. Have you any evidence on the quality of work or quality of service provided by these private contractors .....
- 11. How much time is taken by existing staff to show private staff how to do their jobs? .....
- 12. How much time has been spent making good the mistakes, 'muddles' or poor service provided by private contractors. ....
- 13. Any other comments or other additional information (e.g. contractors use of council facilities and equipment). .....

Use additional sheets of paper where necessary.