

——— *Socialist Party* ———

Childcare crisis deepens...

Adequate funding needed NOW!

Over 900 workers in Family and Child Care have taken the courageous step of striking to force the Northern Ireland Assembly in increase funding for Family and Child Care services.

The Family and Child Care services have been in a real crisis situation for years there is no doubt that despite the best efforts of staff the community, families and children are not receiving the service that is needed.

Child Care workers do not want to have to take strike action yet over 80% voted in favour of a strike in the recent ballot. This and the overwhelming response to today's action shows how intolerable the situation has become.

Provide the funds

In short Child Care staff simply cannot fulfill the obligations set by legislation unless the service is adequately funded. Assembly members from all parties should sit up and take notice. They must provide the funds for an adequate Child Care service.

Excuses about funding will not do. When it comes to pay rises and expense claims for themselves there is no shortage of money. But when it comes to providing proper funding for services in the community they constantly plead poverty.

The Minister must provide the money immediately. The services must be provided and, if necessary, the struggle taken to the Westminster government to provide extra cash.

Further action

Today's action is to be followed by a work to rule. If this is not enough to shift the Minister a further programme of escalating industrial action must be begun. This means a programme of one and two day strikes leading to all out action if there is no other way.

Political Action

This is a struggle that must be won. It is part of an overall struggle against the right wing pro market policies of the four parties in the Executive. While these parties spend their time arguing over sectarian issues and trying to keep people divided they are completely united in holding down spending and in selling off big parts of our Health, Education and other services to Banks and other private companies through PPPs and PFI.

We need to struggle against these policies and for public services that are properly funded and democratically run. To do this we need to prepare for political as well as industrial action. There will be Assembly election next year. It is time to start preparing to put up candidates who will represent trade union and community interests and who will challenge the right wing political establishment.

The Socialist is helping prepare such a challenge. If you also want to challenge the right wing and sectarian parties why not join us. Just fill in the form below.

Join the Socialist Party

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