TRAFFORD LABOUR GROUP

Labour

PRESS RELEASE

Labour attacks Tory cuts of Welfare Rights Benefit Advisors

Labour Councillor Joanne Bennett is concerned about the review being undertaken into the welfare rights benefits service, in particular the planned savings target of £113,000

This service is a lifeline to the most vulnerable in our communities and the loss of any staff will have a devastating effect on this invaluable service.

Our welfare rights team was initiated under a Labour council because we recognised the overwhelming need there is for advice on allowances, including Disability Living Allowances, Pension Credit, Incapacity Benefits, Tax Credits, Housing & Council Tax benefits, etc.

The service offers an advice line, advice sessions across Trafford, home visits, drop-in centre at Partington and support for residents at tribunals. They also work in partnership with Housing Trusts and the Dept of Work and Pensions, often dealing with very complex issues. In addition they work closely with urgent referrals from Trafford General Hospital from very ill patients requiring disability benefits as a matter of urgency.

Cllr. Bennett said “We condemn these cuts and, whilst Cameron is declaring the Tories have changed to a caring party, the Tories in Trafford are evidence it is the same old Tory Party. Since taking control of Trafford Council they have attacked the most vulnerable in our communities, including children with special educational needs, the elderly and now those who need access to information that could make their lives more bearable."

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