



Deaf and Disabled people - still fighting the cuts

# context

- Ideological agenda to dismantle welfare state and attack workers
- Social security cuts justified by misuse of statistic and scapegoating of benefit claimants
- Social care budget shortfall and cuts to frontline services



# context

- Disabled people being targeted by cuts
  - Disabled people lose 9 times more than most other citizens.
  - Disabled people with high support needs will lose on average 19 times more than most other citizens.
- First time in the history of modern social care – things getting worse for Disabled people.
- UN inquiry into grave and systematic violation of the UN Convention on the Rights of persons with disabilities by the UK government.



# the employment gap

- Labour market statistics point to growth in number of Disabled people in work
- Also point to growth in number of unemployed Disabled people
- Cuts and changes undermining ability of Deaf and Disabled people to get into and stay in employment
- Employment trends increasing barriers to employment for Disabled people



# Closure of the ILF and cuts to social care support

- ‘Clean and feed’ model of social care
- “Independent solutions” and reliance on unpaid support
- Increasing barriers to participation in education, training and volunteering





# Welfare reform

- Sanctions – disproportionate impact
- Continual reassessments
- Proposals to bring ESA WRAG down to JSA level
- Cuts to tax credits



# Changes to Access to Work

- Change in attitude from advisers – accusations of wasting tax-payers money and fraud; suggesting Deaf and Disabled people need to get different jobs
- Difficult to access – lost claim forms, delayed payments
- Limiting support packages and introduction of a cap



# Changes to Access to Work

- Change in narrative – now described as a “benefit” and denial of the £1.48 figure
- Media coverage of fraud cases
- Attempt to scapegoat BSL interpreters





# StopChanges2ATW

- Deaf and Disabled people and interpreters
- National Union of British Sign Language Interpreters (NUBSLI)
- Wins:
  - Reinstatements of individual packages – Parliamentary and health Services Ombudsman and attempted legal challenges
  - Reversal of the 30 hour rule
  - Work and Pensions select committee report
  - March - 26<sup>th</sup> September



# fighting back

- Research, monitor, evidence
- Lobby, engage with Parliament
- Use the law, legal challenges
- Use the media, raise awareness
- Protests, direct actions



- Unite with allies
- Win
- Never to happen again

