

Rachel Reeves MP

Monthly Report July 2014

Labour Member of Parliament for Leeds West, Shadow Secretary of State for Work & Pensions

CHAOS AND WASTE AT THE DWP

This month, the Shadow Department for Work and Pensions team led a debate in parliament on chaos and waste at the DWP.

Rachel used this debate to highlight that this incompetent and out-of-touch government are failing to tackle the root causes of the rising benefit bill, such as low pay and a lack of affordable housing.

Meanwhile the DWP is descending into chaos, with key programmes behind schedule and over-budget. Universal Credit has been hit by massive delays and millions of

pounds of taxpayers' money has already been written off. The Work Capability Assessment process is in "virtual collapse", and the introduction of Personal Independence Payment has been described as "nothing short of a fiasco".

In addition the Work Programme and Youth Contract have failed to meet their targets, the unfair Bedroom Tax risks costing more than it saves, and other DWP programmes are performing poorly or are in disarray.



Rachel used the debate to show that Labour will build a social security system that is fair and affordable, supporting those who need it while controlling costs by tackling worklessness, low pay and insecurity.

REGIONAL GROWTH REVIEW LAUNCHED



Rachel joined Ed Miliband and Lord Adonis in Leeds this month to officially launch Labour's Regional Growth Review. Labour will devolve £30 billion of funding to boost economic growth outside London

and create strong cities and regions. In his speech Ed Miliband announced One Nation Labour's plan to help and support business in every part of Britain and discussed how Labour will give power back to great towns and cities to tackle chronic regional imbalance.

Rachel said:

'Job creation has been too concentrated in London and this plan will really boost local businesses like Airedale to become

more successful and create more opportunities for young people.

'I was lucky enough to go to University and the government carried on investing in me, but not in many of my contemporaries who could not go to University.

'That's why it is very important for young people under 21 to get skill based training and for businesses like Airedale that are already providing apprenticeships to young people can continue boosting the regional economy'

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IN BRIEF

RECORD CROWDS AT FESTIVAL



Rachel and the local Labour team have been out and about on the campaign trail this month, knocking on doors across Leeds West and in key-seat Pudsey. If you want to help us on the road to 2015 get in touch at: rachel@rachelreevesmp.co.uk



Rachel and Cllr Lucinda Yeadon visited the Big Word in Lower Wortley this month. The Big Word have been awarded several prizes at the National Apprenticeships Awards for their work in providing apprenticeship opportunities for young people.



As part of Labour's plans to improve services for patients and ease pressure on local hospitals, Rachel has backed Labour's new guarantee for patients to be able to see a GP within 48 hours or on the same day if they need to be seen quickly.

On Saturday 12th July Rachel and the Leeds West Labour team joined around 25000 people at another excellent Kirkstall Festival, set in the beautiful Kirkstall Abbey grounds.

The sun was shining brightly in Kirkstall as festival-goers enjoyed numerous performances, a parade, the fairground, hundreds of stalls, great food and drink and much, much more.

Rachel attended the festival and gave a

reading during the service, a celebratory open air event, which took place in the 12th century nave of Kirkstall Abbey Church.

Kirkstall Festival is a non-commercial community festival and relies on its volunteers for it to run smoothly.

Rachel commented,

'I was very proud to be a part of Kirkstall Festival again this year. This fantastic event really brings the community together.

'There were some amazing performances and it was a hugely enjoyable day, as always.

'A huge thank you to all the hardworking volunteers who make this day happen each year.'

LEEDS HOSTS LE GRAND DEPART

This month Rachel attended the opening stage of the 101st Tour De France, as Leeds proudly hosted the 'Grand Depart'.

The big send off from the Headrow, in Leeds City Centre, took place at 11:05am, with 198 riders from 22 teams competing in the 190Km first stage from Leeds to Harrogate.

Rachel was joined by Labour Party Leader Ed Miliband who commented upon the amazing atmosphere in the City Centre.

Rachel said:

'It was just so exciting to be there watching the opening of this great sporting event in Leeds City Centre. It was thrilling to be part of the friendly, enthusiastic crowd.



Rachel is pictured at Le Grand Depart in Leeds City Centre with Labour Leader Ed Miliband and Steve Harris.

'Many thanks to everyone - volunteers, Police, Leeds City Council, Welcome to Yorkshire and the wonderful people of Leeds who made it possible.'

Community welcomes Labour announcement on disabled people

10 July 2014

Community welcome the announcement by Rachel Reeves on what a Labour government will do for disabled people in the UK.



Visiting Royal Strathclyde Blindcraft Industries (RSBi) in Glasgow, Rachel Reeves, the Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, yesterday announced Labour's [five pledges](#) to help disabled people across the country. These pledges were that Labour will:

1. Scrap the costly and unfair Bedroom Tax
2. Devolve control over the Work Programme to Scotland
3. Transform the Work Capability Assessment
4. Get a grip of the huge Personal Independent Payments backlog
5. Make rights a reality for disabled people in Scotland

RSBi is one of Europe's largest assisted workshop facilities, manufacturing a wide range of furniture products for public and private sector organisations. RSBi predominantly employs people who have a disability or learning difficulties, the majority of whom are members of Community.

Rachel Reeves visited the factory with Margaret Curran, Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland and a member of Community. Rachel and Margaret were shown round the factory by Community members and spoke with staff about Labour's plan to help disabled workers.

Community, which has members in supported workplaces all over the UK, welcomed the announcement as being a step forward in the fight of disabled people for better government support.

Commenting on the announcement, Robert Mooney, a worker at RSBi and a member of Community's National Executive Council, said; "The workers at RSBi were delighted to welcome Rachel Reeves to the factory. Her announcement on Labour's plan to help disabled people is a good thing for Community's members and is proof of Labour's commitment to reversing the Tory attacks on disabled people."

Community believes that Scots are better off as part of the UK and has supported Rachel Reeves' comments that Scotland can offer disabled workers a better deal by being able to pool resources and share risk with the rest of the UK.

General Secretary of Community, Roy Rickhuss, said; "Community welcomes Labour's five pledges for disabled people. Our disabled members have been let down badly by this Tory government and we believe that Labour will take the right steps to start making things better for the millions of disabled people across Britain.

"Community believes that the next Labour government should use public procurement to dramatically increase support for supported workplaces. Our members at factories such as RSBi have a great deal to contribute to the UK economy and should be actively supported by government at all levels.

"With the referendum on separation fast approaching, it is important to recognise the incredible benefits that being part of the UK brings to those at RSBi and indeed all workers across Scotland.

Notes:

The announcement from Rachel Reeves on Labour's five pledges to help disabled people can be found in full [here](#).

More information about Community's work with RSBi and disabled workers across the country can be found [here](#).

For more information, contact Matt Ball on 07799772250 or mball@community-tu.org

'Time for a shift from London to Leeds'

JAMES REED

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LABOUR LEADER Ed Miliband praised a Leeds company and its workforce yesterday for its speedy recovery from a devastating fire.

Mr Miliband was speaking at the temporary home of air conditioning specialist Airedale whose Rawdon premises were badly damaged last year.

The Labour leader told staff and management he had huge admiration for the way they had responded.

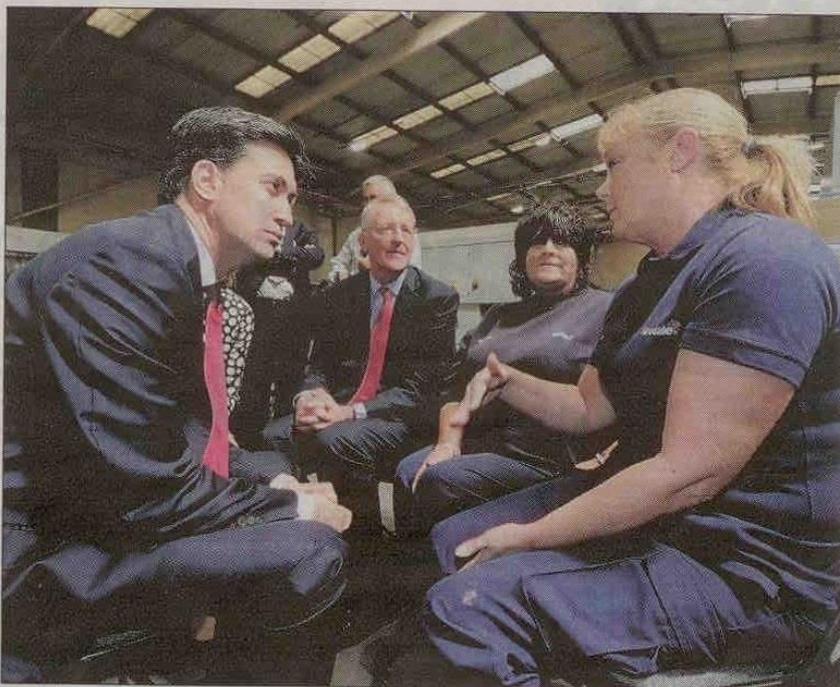
"You didn't even let a fire burning down your premises get

in the way of your international success," he said.

Mr Miliband also described Leeds as a city of "huge dynamism, fantastic people and a great council".

He was at Airedale's plant to launch a new report by former Transport Secretary Lord Adonis on how Labour can narrow the economic gap between areas like West Yorkshire and the South East.

Its central recommendation is that billions of pounds currently spent by Government departments in London should instead be given to groups of councils working with business in places such as Leeds to



HIGH PRAISE: Labour party leader Ed Miliband met factory workers Bridgeen Welsh and Alison Lowe.

"You didn't even let a fire... get in the way of your success"

Labour leader Ed Miliband

spend on measures to help the local economy and create more skilled jobs.

Mr Miliband told the YEP: "In a world where there is less money around I think it is absolutely essential, it is essential anyway, but it is even more important in a world of less money because unless you give power to local

people you are never going to be able to do more with less which is what we need to do."

Leeds City Council leader Keith Wakefield welcomed the report.

He said: "The review clearly points in the right direction by emphasising the opportunities devolved spending could bring."



**MOBILITY:
Motorist is
handed 'keys
to freedom'**

A DISABLED motorist has said his specially designed car has 'given him his freedom'.

Mark Porley, of west Leeds, was handed the keys to his new Motability car by the MP for the area and Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Rachel Reeves.

Mr Porley, 47, has an inherited neurological disorder which causes progressive loss of muscle tissue and touch sensation.

But he said the car he had acquired through the scheme had changed his life, adding: "I can't imagine life without it. I have always taken an active role in the community and leasing a car with Motability means I can continue to do this."

For information about Motability, which helps disabled people get mobile using their mobility allowance visit www.motability.co.uk