

* Stephen's story....

Stephen is 25 and works in a store on a 16-hour contract. He lives at home with his mother and stepfather in their council home. Relations between Stephen and his stepfather have broken down. The council are unable to help as the family home is of ample size. He's unable to get a private rental, as local landlords will not accept him because he only works 16 hours a week. Despite regular overtime, he cannot always guarantee he'll earn enough to meet his rental outgoings every month.



Local Labour members campaigning for fair pay

Universal Credit is coming to Liskeard...

On 6th December, Universal Credit is being rolled out in parts of Cornwall, including Liskeard. Do you know the hardship this could cause many individuals and families?

More than 64% of families nationwide receive benefits of some kind. Universal Credit plans to combine into one: Child Tax Credit; Working Tax Credit; Housing Benefit; Income Support; income-based Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment Support Allowance. From 6th December, people will begin to be moved onto Universal Credit with each new claim.

A major problem with Universal Credit is that it is paid monthly in arrears. This means that many will need to wait for payment, causing issues such as falling behind with their rent. Applicants can ask for a short-term advance payment to help them survive the initial wait, but this is a loan which will be taken back by reduced payments over the first few months.

Moreover, budget cuts mean that some families will be left worse off with smaller payments; as will many self-employed people who currently rely on Tax Credits.

Did you know...?



House prices in Liskeard are between eight and fourteen times earnings; with average salaries in the town only £16,000 compared to £27,000 nationally.



One of the neighbourhoods in Liskeard is among the 10% most deprived in the country.



The greater percentage of part-time and seasonal work, as well as self-employment, puts many at higher risk under Universal Credit.

* Gary's story....

Gary, aged 35, lives with a partner aged 30. He works in a local store on a 10-hour contract and a laundry company on a 15-hour contract. His partner has mild mental health issues and had her benefits stopped when he began working. Gary is unsure whether they can claim help, but after bad experiences at the job centre, can't face trying to find out. After paying rent, council tax and utility bills they have very little left and rely on food donations.

** Names have been changed*



Labour will...

Introduce a Real Living Wage of £10 an hour by 2020; ban zero-hours contracts and give workers full and equal rights from day one.



Labour will...

Rebuild and transform our social security system from one that demonises people, to one that is supportive and enabling.



Labour will...

End austerity, and build an economy that puts working people first by investing in high-skill, high-wage jobs.



Labour will...

Repeal the cuts in support for disabled people, reform Universal Credit, and scrap the punitive sanctions regime.