

Pensions and Health Justice for Mineworkers

This week, Chair of the Labour Party, Ian Lavery reiterated Labour's important manifesto pledge to end the injustice of the state taking 50% of the surplus in the mineworkers' pension scheme. The next Labour government will make sure that the miners get 90%, not 50%, of the pension fund.

Jon Ashworth, Shadow Health Secretary, was in Clay Cross today and spoke with a group of ex-miners and their families about what a Labour government can do to best support those suffering from pneumoconiosis and other respiratory conditions caused by the mining industry. Jon is determined that Labour will make sure that ex miners will get the support they need.

Chris Peace, Labour Candidate for North East Derbyshire said: "North East Derbyshire has a proud mining heritage. I am proud that the next Labour government will be taking action to support our former mineworkers, providing them with the pensions they should rightly have and the health support they so desperately need"

Ex miner Brian Wright said: "Knowing that Labour are going to help us ex miners is such a relief. Sadly many miners have now died with lung disease. Hopefully this announcement will mean that many ex miners will live longer and also benefit from our wonderful NHS under a Labour Government"

Notes:

Researchers from the University of Leeds have assessed the links between coal mining site locations, socioeconomic deprivation and self-reported health and they suggest that there is a close relationship between coal mine locations and areas with the highest levels of standardised long-term illness with poor health decreasing the longer a pit has been closed.

A report by the Coalfields regeneration trust in 2014 identified a distinctly higher incidence of ill health in the former coalfields. Two measures from the 2011 Census – the share of residents reporting poor health, and the share reporting long-term health problems that limit their activities – flagged up an incidence of self-reported ill health in a number of coalfields that was approaching double the level in South East England.