

BRANCH UPDATE

Following the AGM that was held in March the following Branch Officers have been confirmed in post:

Dave Eatock	Chairperson
Pauline Cripps	Vice Chairperson
Pam Howard	Joint Branch Secretary
Jason Horan	Joint Branch Secretary
Julie Pickles	Treasurer
Pearl Bowden	Woman's Officer
Tony Sweeney	Welfare Officer
Albert Hartley	Retired Members
Craig Wyna	LGBT Officer
Dave Eatock	Education Officer
Ivor Sobers	Black Members Officer
Malcolm Groarke	Health & Safety Officer
Daniel Mather	Branch Auditor
Anne Sweetman	Branch Auditor
Stephen Wright	Labour Link Officer

All officers work together to ensure that the branch is run effectively and to ensure that

our members will be represented at all levels.

The Branch Executive also has vacancies for the following positions:

- Terms & Conditions Officer
- Equality Officer
- Sports & Social Officer
- Disabled Members Officer
- Membership Services Officer
- International Relations Officer
- Communications Officer
- Young Members Officer (under age 27)

We also require Workplace Representatives, Union Learner Representatives and Workplace Contacts. If you would like further information on any of these roles or any of the positions above, please contact the Branch Office (01925 44-2186/2187) for more information and an informal discussion.

New legal changes

April sees a number of important changes to various aspects of employment legislation, which UNISON reps, activists and members need to be aware of.

- **1 April:** Statutory minimum annual leave entitlement rises from 24 to 28 days a year for full time employees (four weeks leave, plus eight bank holidays).
- **5 April:** Statutory maternity and paternity pay increases from £117.19 per week to £123.06.
- **6 April:** Abolition of the statutory dispute and grievance procedures and replacement by new ACAS Code and guidance; reversion to pre October 2004 position on unfair dismissal; transitional arrangements for disputes started before April 2009; plus changes to tribunal system and forms etc.
- **6 April:** Increase in minimum wage penalties, agency inspection, information sharing, national minimum wage penalty and fairer arrears regime; change in trade union membership laws (re: BNP and political parties) from Employment Act 2008.
- **6 April:** Introduction of extension of right to request flexible working to parents of children up to the age of 16 – up to 4.5 million extra people potentially benefiting.
- **6 April:** Statutory sick pay increases from £75.40 per week to £79.15.



WARRINGTON BRANCH NEWS

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APRIL 2009

JOB EVALUATION UPDATE

Everybody is asking the burning question of when will the new pay and grading structure be Implemented?

UNISON Regional & National offices have been assessing whether the Total Reward Package meets with equality legislation and remains free from unfair equal pay bias. The assessment of the package is a complex area and requires in-depth work which is ongoing. As soon as we receive any feedback from Regional or National Office we will communicate this to UNISON members.

Warrington Borough Council have given a commitment to an implementation date of 1 April 2009. Even though a ballot of UNISON members on the Total Reward Package (TRP) is yet to take place which will delay progress, we are working together with Warrington Borough Council to implement as soon as practically possible.

Golden Gates Housing timetable will be slightly different from that of WBC. The NJC trade unions are still waiting to receive the full details of the proposed package. Once we are satisfied with this information we will then forward to Regional/National office for approval to ballot GGH members. A ballot of GGH will be separate to that of WBC.

ONLY members of an **NJC Trade Union** will receive a ballot paper and have a say as to whether the package is accepted or not. **PLEASE NOTE: Failure to notify the Branch Office of any change of address may mean that you will not receive your ballot paper.**

We would encourage any employee who is not in a trade union and wants to participate in the ballot, to contact the local Branch Office for details on joining UNISON.

In the meantime, Warrington Borough Council are running a number of workforce briefings to inform everyone about the detail of the TRP. All these briefings will be headed up by Strategic Directors with JE specialists from People and Organisational Improvement. The NJC trade unions will also be present where we will be able to update you on the current ballot situation.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the branch office.



Have Your Say In The Ballot — Join UNISON

Contact — 01925 637927

NEC 2009 election

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

When?

During April, when you'll receive ballot papers in the post at your home address.

For What?

UNISON's National Executive Council (NEC) elections.

Why?

Because you have the right to decide how you want to be represented. Plus voting is a right that many have fought for and sacrificed everything to achieve.

What do these NEC members do?

They decide on matters that could affect:

- Your job.
- Your terms and conditions.
- Your Community



Does my vote really make a difference?

Yes, because those elected will decide:

- How your subscriptions are spent.
- Which campaigns and issues we should fight on.
- What the union says nationally about your public services.

What else can I do?

Encourage all other UNISON members you know to vote.

Who has my branch nominated?

Your Branch nominated the following candidates in these elections:

Bob Oram	for the	Northwest General Seat
Carol Lukey	for the	National Local Government General Seat
Angela Bowen	for the	Northwest Woman's Seat
Glen Williams	for the	National Local Government Male Seat
Elaine Cotterell	for the	Northwest Woman's Seat
Jimmy Fallon	for the	Northwest Male Seat
Elizabeth Cameron	for the	Black Member's Woman's Seat
Mark Clifford	for the	Black Member's Male Seat

The timetable for the ballot is:

14 April 2009	Despatch of ballot papers
21 April 2009	Start of member's ballot helpline
12noon, 12 May 2009	Close of member's ballot helpline
5pm, 15 May 2009	Deadline for receipt of ballot papers
5pm, 22 May 2009	Deadline to lodge written complaints and supporting evidence with Returning Officer
9 June 2009	Results announced

Your views on social work with adults

UNISON's recent survey of social work members who work with children and families revealed an alarming picture of chronic staffing shortages, excessive workloads and too much bureaucracy.

Social work services for adults face similar pressures. In addition, there is considerable uncertainty about the impact of schemes for "self-directed support" through direct payments, personal budgets and such like.

In mental health social workers are shouldering an increasingly complex set of legal and practice responsibilities, while the interface with health services can be fraught.

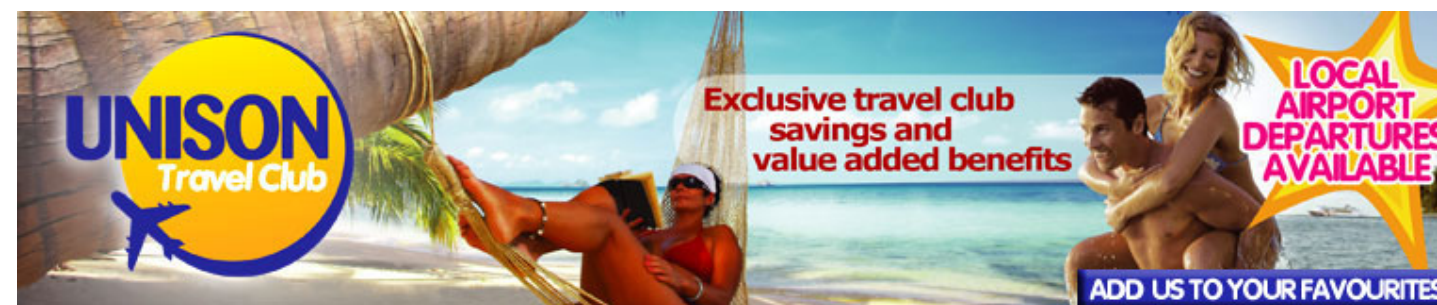
Across the four UK countries there are government attempts to review and reform the social work profession. But the fact remains that the pressures on social workers continue to grow because of failure to invest properly in social work services.

We want to ensure that social workers have a strong voice in UNISON. As part of this we now want to gather your views on what the key issues and pressures are for social workers working with adults. This will inform UNISON's campaigning for a better deal for ALL social workers.

If you are a social worker with adults, including in mental health, please take part in the online survey:

http://surveys.unison.co.uk/login.asp?survey=your_views_on_social_work_with_adults_today2

We'd also like to hear from you if you are a manager, an administrator, an assistant, a community care officer or other role involved with providing social work services for adults.



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