

UNISON News

Autumn 2020

News from the York City Branch of UNISON

Together we are UNISON

We urgently need more contacts and stewards

It is us as UNISON members who volunteer to become reps to support our colleagues in our workplaces. We haven't had enough members willing to come forward, and we have had some very experienced reps retire in the last year.

Please, please consider taking that first step of becoming a contact for your colleagues, or training to be a steward.

Help us grow

We welcomed over 300 new members into our branch last year, and over 100,000 people joined UNISON in the first 6 months of the year. Just imagine if everyone you worked with was a member of UNISON? How strong would that make us? So, please do invite your fellow workers to join our 1.3 million member strong family.

No going back to normal

The year so far has been a rollercoaster, and it is set to carry on for the foreseeable future. UNISON along with the TUC fought for and won furlough, and have campaigned relentlessly for our members' health and safety in all workplaces. We will continue fighting – if you fight, you may lose, if you don't fight, you will always lose.

Nationally UNISON is campaigning for *no going back to normal*, and for £10bn of funding that the government asked local councils to spend on their behalf to be given back to councils.

We have worked tirelessly to support members during the pandemic, and we will continue to do so.

I want to give a huge shout out to our Branch Administrator, Phil, who has been an absolute star.



Face coverings



We have asked Clegg on Goodramgate to make us up to 100 cloth masks and invite you to make a request for one of these.

As face coverings are now

mandatory in many places, we know that this could be a significant additional cost for you. If you would normally apply for the school uniform or winter fuel grant, please do get in touch to receive a mask.

The £95k Public Sector Exit Cap is now law

UNISON is completely opposed to offsetting the severance payments including Statutory Redundancy Pay against payments to remove reductions for pensions for those over 55. This is penal and potentially discriminatory.

Legal opinions are being obtained to see if this can be challenged and UNISON is asking the MHCLG to extend the consultation beyond 9

November to allow for meaningful discussion to take place and for the views of members to be heard

UNISON have asked questions <https://www.unison.org.uk/news/article/2020/10/unison-asks-exit-payments-questions-treasury/>

Read more about how this could affect you: <https://tinyurl.com/y4vqqg7q>

Stars in our schools

You are unsung heroes from TAs to catering to cleaning to technicians to school librarians to IT staff to administrators to bursars the list goes on...

www.starsinourschools.co.uk



Grow through life

UNISON's member courses have gone online, and we would encourage you to have a browse of all the courses that are being run, and book yourself onto one of the remaining courses for the year.

<https://learning.unison.org.uk/>

The Yorkshire and Humberside programme is here:

<https://yorks.unison.org.uk/education-and-training/>

General secretary elections

In January 2021 we will welcome a new General Secretary of UNISON, and you will have a vote on whom that should be.

The ballot is now open and closes on 27 November

We urge every member to use their right to vote in this important election.



UNISON wins AGAIN for Home Care workers

The legal judgement acknowledged UNISON's claim that travelling and waiting time of up to 60 minutes between appointments should be treated as working time and paid at the minimum wage. Pass this message onto any Home Care workers you know.



Read the full story on the UNISON website: <https://tinyurl.com/yy6yjat6>

Keep your details up to date

It's important to keep your details up to date so please let us know any changes to your circumstances by emailing us or logging into your MyUNISON account: www.unison.org.uk/my-unison