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www.unison-rochdale.org

Rochdale UNISON
would like to wish all it's members a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year



Date for your Diary

Rochdale UNISON AGM 2016

Next year's AGM will be held on Wednesday 2nd March 2016

12 noon @ Rochdale Town Hall
6.00 pm @ Phoenix Centre Heywood

Three simple ways to join UNISON today:

www.joinunison.org

Call UNISON
0800 171 2193

Fill in the form on the
back and send it to the
address below

Rochdale UNISON, Branch Office, 46 Richard Street, Rochdale, OL11 1DU

Cleaners and Care workers should not pay the price of Osborne's Austerity

Rochdale Council has just announced the latest round of cuts. They plan to reduce the budget by a further £37 million over the next two years. This comes on top of years of pay freezes and below inflation pay increases in local government. Council workers are already struggling with increased workloads as we try to plug the gaps left by previous cuts in public services.

Rochdale UNISON are concerned about **every** cut, particularly the council's proposals for cleaners and care workers.

Essential Care

STARS workers provide support to some of the most vulnerable adults in the borough. For years there has been no requirement for these care workers to be car drivers. Earlier this year the Council removed essential car user allowance from all employees. We were all given new contracts that said that no one would have to provide a car to do their work.

Now STARS workers, and only STARS workers, are being told they have to accept a new contract that says they must have access to motorised transport. If it is essential then the Council should be paying an essential motorised transport user payment not just transferring all of the costs onto care workers.

Cleaning Cut

Cleaners are being told that their hours will be cut by between one and two hours a week. They are among the lowest paid workers in the Council. Earlier this year UNISON welcomed the Council's move to introduce the Living Wage which greatly benefited this group of workers.

Now they are threatened with having their income cut again by between £400 and £800 a year. They are already under pressure to cover all of the work they are asked to do. How can they clean large buildings like Riverside in even less time?

UNISON is opposed to both of these proposals. The council shouldn't be balancing its books on the backs of those who can least afford to pay. We will represent any member who is facing redundancy. If you are reading this and you are not a member you can join by phoning 01706925952.

Winter Fuel Grants

UNISON is once again offering help to members on low incomes with winter fuel costs. One in four households in the UK are now living in fuel poverty. We do not believe anyone should have to choose between heating their home or putting food on the table. If you earn less than £18,000 a year you can apply online at www.unison.org.uk or phone Rochdale branch on 01706925952.

Change of details/email addresses

If you have recently changed your details i.e. moved address or work location it is important you let the Branch Office know as we need to ensure our records are up to date , so you can receive all the relevant information from UNISON. Please contact the branch to update your membership details.

There for You: Domestic Violence

UNISON offered a lifeline for a member who felt a prisoner in her own home

Six months ago life for UNISON member Carla was at an all-time low, as she and her children felt imprisoned living with her abusive and controlling husband.

"I didn't feel we would ever escape," she recalls. "I didn't have any savings at all. I just seemed to be working all the time. I never had enough for a holiday for the children, or even clothes for them at times." At her wits' end, Carla turned to her UNISON steward who advised her to apply for help from There For You, the union's charity. That application was successful and the hardship grant she received has paid for a deposit on a new place to live and some furniture.

But more than that, There for You has changed Carla's life.

"We now live in a home where there is laughter and happiness and the children are doing well at school. There is no more sadness, no more arguments and anger. Without your [UNISON's] generosity we would still be in an abusive environment at our old address.

"You have given me the strength and courage to be happy again. The future for the four of us is looking good.

"I didn't realise that, being a member of UNISON, a fund was available for me and for the hundreds of other families who have gone through what I have been through, and for that I am truly grateful."

If, like Carla (not her real name), you are struggling through an unexpected crisis, or if the pressures of everyday life are getting to you, There for You can help.

There for You is a unique confidential advice and support service just for members of UNISON and their dependents. Whether you need just a chat and a sympathetic ear, or more concrete assistance, we may be able to help.

There for You offers:

- financial help;
- debt advice;
- wellbeing breaks;
- support and information.

To find out more, go to unison.org.uk/welfare, email us at thereforyou@unison.co.uk, or give us a ring on 020 7121 5620.

Calling all Young Members

I am standing down as Young Members officer at the AGM in March 2016, due to my age. The post is voluntary and you get out of it what you put into it (I was fortunate to go on the Young Trade Unionists May-Day Brigade in Cuba for international workers' day 2013).

The main role as a Young Members Officer* is to bring other young members along to trade union demonstrations, join in branch campaigns and socialise after UNISON events.

UNISON represent members, negotiate and bargain on their behalf, campaign for better working conditions and pay and for public services. If you are interested in becoming the Young member Officer, please contact the office for further information.

Ian Sutcliffe — Young Member Officer.

*** Must be under 27 years Old**

Community & Voluntary Sector Members

Rochdale UNISON can nominate 2 delegates to the Regional Community Service Group Committee. The Committee meets quarterly at Arena Point to discuss matters within the Community & Voluntary Sector. If you would like to be involved with this group, please contact the office for further information.

Join UNISON – essential cover if you work in public services

Return to: UNISON Rochdale, 46 Richard St, Rochdale, OL11 1DU

1 Tell us about you

Title	First name
Surname/family name	Date of birth / /

Home address	Postcode
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email

Phone number (please indicate if home, work or mobile)	National insurance number (from your payslip)
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Please give your ethnic origin: (tick one box)			
☐ Bangladeshi	☐ Pakistani	☐ Black African	☐ Black UK
☐ Chinese	☐ Asian UK	☐ Black	☐ Irish
☐ Indian	☐ Asian other	☐ Caribbean	☐ White other

2 Tell us about your job

Employer's name

Your job title/occupation

Workplace name and address	Postcode
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Payroll number (from your payslip)

3 What you will pay each month

Please tick the appropriate box for your earnings before deductions.

Annual pay	Your subscription
Up to £2,000	£1.30
£2,001–£5,000	£3.50
£5,001–£8,000	£5.30
£8,001–£11,000	£6.60
£11,001–£14,000	£7.85
£14,001–£17,000	£9.70
£17,001–£20,000	£11.50
£20,001–£25,000	£14.00
£25,001–£30,000	£17.25
£30,001–£35,000	£20.30
over £35,000	£22.50

4 Choose your political fund

One of the ways UNISON works on your behalf is through political campaigning. Your subscription includes a political fund payment so you won't pay any extra, but in UNISON you choose how you want that money to be used.

Please tick one box only.

☐ Our Affiliated Political Fund takes UNISON members' views directly into the Labour Party, working to promote UNISON policies.

☐ The General Political Fund is used to pay for branch, regional and national campaigns but is independent of any political party.

5 Choose how you wish to pay Please tick ONE box only

EITHER deduct from salary:

I wish to join UNISON and authorise deduction of subscriptions from my pay by my employer.

Signature

Date

Please go to unison.org.uk/privacy-policy to see how we will protect and use your personal information

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the form and send to UNISON, 130 Euston Road London NW1 2AY

Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

To: The Manager	Bank/building society
Address	
Postcode	
Name(s) of Account holder(s)	

Service User Number

9 7 0 0 5 0

Reference number (for office use only do not complete)

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Please pay UNISON Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with UNISON and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature(s)

Date

Bank/building society account number

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Branch sort code

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Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account

