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UNISON There for You – Winter Fuel Grants 2017-2018

Worried about paying your Winter Fuel Bill, get help staying warm this winter. With rising fuel costs and another cold winter many members are worried about how they're going to pay this year's winter fuel bills.

Help is on hand "There for You" has set up a limited fund to help UNISON members on low income by way of a one-off payment of up to £50.

To apply download the [application form](#), complete and return with the paperwork requested or to request a form please contact the UNISON branch office on 01706 925951/52. Closing date for receipt of applications is 16th February 2018.

Rochdale UNISON wishes all its member a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



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

UNISON to consider Government pay offer

For the past three years Local Government pay has been capped at 1%. UNISON has been campaigning for the cap to be scrapped. On 5th December the Government wrote to the unions offering a new pay deal.

The offer covers the two years from 1 April 2018. It would mean a 2% wage rise next April for the majority of council and school support staff currently earning more than £19,430, and a further 2% in April 2019.

The local government employers are also proposing to give lower paid staff a higher wage rise – of up to 16% over the two years. The proposals also include a revamp of National Joint Council pay scales.

The Bank of England are predicting that inflation will be 2% for the two years of the deal (higher if you include housing costs) so at best this deal means no change to wages in real terms for workers earning above £19,430 a year. Since 2010 average wages in Local Government have fallen by over 20% in real terms.

On top of that cuts made by individual councils like Rochdale such as unpaid leave, the cuts to shift allowances, overtime payments, weekend working and car user allowances have cost workers thousands.

A much higher pay rise would be needed to start to reverse the damage austerity has done to our wages. This deal keeps us roughly where we are now.

Also there has been no announcement of extra funding to pay for the increase. There was no mention of the deal in the budget. If the Government are expecting schools and councils to pay the increase from existing funds then more jobs and services would be at risk.

Responding to the offer UNISON head of local government Heather Wakefield said:

"The government must now come up with the cash to fund local government properly so councils have the money to give their staff a wage increase that doesn't put more services or jobs at risk."

Financial support from UNISON

If you are a member and you are experiencing financial difficulties, whatever the circumstances, There for You can offer you support.

You may have financial problems for reasons including:
relationship breakdown;

- loss of income
- suffering from a long illness
- needing to buy equipment because of a disability
- caring for someone with special needs or an illness

There is no guarantee that we can offer you financial help, but thousands of members and their families do benefit from our support every year.

For more information contact us on 020 7121 5620 or email thereforyou@unison.co.uk or contact your branch welfare officer.