



ROCHDALE PIONEER

Members Newsletter from ROCHDALE UNISON

July 2014

Pay Strike Begins Thursday 10th July

UNISON members in Local Government and schools have voted to go on strike over the latest below inflation pay offer. The first one day strike will take place on Thursday 10th July. We are striking for a pay rise of at least £1 per hour.

Inflation

We have suffered a pay freeze and years of below inflation rises that have cut our pay in real terms. If we accept this year's pay offer without a fight we will be, on average, 20% worse off than we were in 2010. The cost of living has risen but our pay is being held down.

Bubble

At the moment a new housing bubble is building up in London fuelled by the banks and a reckless housing policy. The Bank of England are talking about increasing interest rates to tackle the bubble. This will mean higher mortgages and rents for everyone. Housing costs, childcare and power bills will all be going up - without a decent pay rise we won't be able to keep up.

Pension

If you are in the Local Government Pension Scheme your pension is now calculated based on your average earnings over your career. Below inflation pay deals now will reduce the value of your pension when you retire.

Not alone

We are not alone in this fight. UNITE and GMB have both balloted their members for action. School teachers will be joining us on July 10th. It is likely that civil servants will also be on strike that day. We need to stand together.

"I completely agree with UNISON with regards to decent pay and hope that we are successful in this"

Jim Dobbin MP

See inside for more on the strike and what it means for you- Hardship payments, pension, etc.

Welcome to our new members

Over 130 people have joined Rochdale UNISON so far this year. If you are reading this and you are not a member yet you can join by filling in the form on the back of this newsletter or online at:

<https://www.unison.org.uk/for-members/joining-unison/>

Pay justice

UNISON represents thousands of low paid workers and part of our pay claim is for the Living Wage to be introduced for everyone in schools and Local Government. This would mean a new minimum of £7.65 per hour for the lowest paid. The Living Wage Commission recently recommended that the Government should implement the Living Wage in the public sector. The Living Wage is the minimum that people need to earn to afford the basic necessities for themselves and their families. By winning our strike we could force the Government to do the right thing on the Living Wage.

School Uniforms Scheme

UNISON is once more launching a scheme to help members on low incomes deal with the cost of school uniforms. Families with children living on a low income struggle constantly to make ends meet - and this can be particularly acute before the new school year begins when those extra costs hit hard.

The union's welfare charity There for You has once more set up a limited fund to help members on low incomes deal with the cost of school uniforms.

If you would like to apply please contact us on 01706 925952. To qualify you must apply **before 11th July** so you will need to contact the branch office as soon as possible.

Austerity Isn't Working -March and Rally 6th September

UNISON members from Rochdale will be joining the TUC march and rally in Manchester on 6th September against the Government's austerity programme. The cuts in the NHS and the devastation of other local services are causing misery for ordinary working people. If you want to join the demonstration we will be meeting at Rochdale Train Station at 10am. If you would prefer to meet us in Manchester the march assembles at Castlefield Arena from 11am. Look out for the Rochdale UNISON banner.

Strike guide 10th July

Who is on Strike?

There has been a ballot and yes vote for strike action. So if you are a UNISON member and you work for the council or in schools (apart from Bamford Academy, Hollingworth Academy, St Anne's Academy and Wardle Academy you are on strike on 10th July (even if you voted against or did not vote- the majority voted in favour of strike action.)

Am I exempt from the strike?

The answer is probably not. In order to ensure "life and limb" cover UNISON will grant exemptions for certain posts. These exemptions are rare and apply to posts not individuals. You may be exempt if you are in the last year of service and have been given an end date by your employer. You may also be exempt if you are pregnant and have notified your manager of the expected date of the birth. All exemptions must be requested by management and confirmed by UNISON's Regional Secretary. If you think your post should be exempt please contact the branch- 01706 925952. Anyone who is exempt will be asked to make a contribution to the hardship fund.

Will striking affect my pension?

Taking one day of strike action will have a minimal effect on your pension and, if you want to, you can pay to make up your contributions after the strike. Whereas the effect of annual below inflation pay rises will have a massive impact on your pension. That's one of the reasons why we are striking.

I support the campaign but I am worried that I cannot afford to strike?

We recognise that striking is hard for everyone. We are only taking this action because there is no other way to get a decent pay rise. UNISON has a hardship fund for members who are in financial difficulty as a result of taking strike action. You can contact Rochdale Unison on 01706 925292 to discuss this.

I want to help out on the day how do I get involved?

Great. You can either speak to your steward or phone our office 01706 925292, email- unison@rochdale.gov.uk

If you don't want to join in the picketing but want to be part of a rally in Manchester at lunchtime you can come and meet us at the front of Riverside at 11am or just head for Piccadilly Gardens in Manchester at 12.30pm.



1. YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS

Please tick or fill in the boxes below

Mrs	Ms	Miss	Mr	Other
First Name				Other Initial
Surname/Family Name				Date of Birth / /
Home Address				
Postcode				

National Insurance Number (from your payslip)

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☐ Please tick this box if you require materials in a different format (eg large print or braille) - be sure to supply contact details below.

Please give a telephone number/ voice/ text/ email address for UNISON to contact you - indicate work or home.

Contact tel/ voice/ text/ email

2. YOUR EMPLOYMENT DETAILS

Employer's Name
Your job title/occupation
Department/section
Workplace name and address
Postcode
Payroll number (from your payslip)
PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO:
Rochdale UNISON, 46 Richard Street, Rochdale, OL11 1DU

3. WHAT YOU PAY - CURRENT RATES (SET OCTOBER 2003)

Please tick the appropriate box for your earnings before deductions

WEEKLY PAY	ANNUAL PAY	YOUR SUBSCRIPTION - WHAT YOU PAY		
		PER WEEK	PER MONTH	BAND
Up to £ 38.47	☐ Up to £ 2,000	£0. 30	£1. 30	A
£ 38.48-£ 96.16	☐ £ 2,001-£ 5,000	£0. 81	£3. 50	B
£ 96.17-£ 153.84	☐ £ 5,001-£ 8,000	£1. 22	£5. 30	C
£ 153.85-£211.53	☐ £ 8,001-£ 11,000	£1. 52	£6. 60	D
£ 211.54-£ 269.23	☐ £ 11,001-£ 14,000	£1. 81	£7. 85	E
£ 269.24-£ 326.92	☐ £ 14,001-£ 17,000	£2. 24	£9. 70	F
£ 326.93-£ 384.61	☐ £ 17,001-£ 20,000	£2. 65	£11. 50	G
£ 384.62-£ 480.76	☐ £ 20,001-£ 25,000	£3. 23	£14. 00	H
£ 480.77-£ 576.92	☐ £ 25,001-£ 30,000	£3. 98	£17. 25	I
£ 579.93-£ 673.08	☐ £ 30,001-£ 35,000	£4. 68	£20. 30	J
£ 673.08+	☐ Over £ 35,000	£5. 19	£22. 50	K

☐ Please tick this box if you are a student member in full-time education (including student nurses or Modern Apprentices). Your subscription is £10 per year.

Please tick the appropriate box to indicate how often you are paid

Weekly ☐ Fortnightly ☐ Four Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐

4. POLITICAL FUND

UNISON's **Affiliated Political Fund (APF)** is used to campaign for and promote UNISON policy and the need for quality public services within the Labour Party, locally and nationally, in Parliament and Europe. UNISON APF affiliates to the Labour Party.

UNISON's **General Political Fund (GPF)** is used to pay for campaigning at branch, regional and national levels of the union and for research and lobbying in Parliament and Europe. It is independent of support for any political party.

It is important that you indicate a choice of fund by ticking one of the boxes below. Your subscription shown above includes a political fund payment so you do not pay any more by being in one of the funds.

If you have been a member of a trade union before, please state which one.

The information provided by you shall be recorded by UNISON for statistical purposes and used for sending you UNISON publications, ballot forms and otherwise communicating with you. If you do **NOT** want any mailings from UNISON, besides those required by statute, please tick this box..... ☐

To keep you fully informed of the services we arrange for members we want you to receive details of benefits offered by or in conjunction with UNISON's affinity partners. The affinity partners are organisations with close links to UNISON that share our ambition to provide you with the best possible range of benefits. Under the Data Protection Legislation we can only disclose your details to our affinity partners with your explicit consent. Therefore if you **WANT** to receive details of the full range of benefits you **MUST** tick this..... ☐

5. YOUR AUTHORISATION

- ☐ I wish to join UNISON and accept its rules and constitution.
- ☐ I authorise deduction of UNISON subscriptions from my salary / wages at the rate determined by UNISON in accordance with its rules to be paid over to them on my behalf and
- ☐ I authorise my employer to provide information to UNISON to keep my records up to date
- ☐ I authorise deduction of the following Political Fund payment as part of my subscription: Tick one box only

☐ **Affiliated Political Fund**

☐ **General Political Fund**

Now please sign and date below.

Signature

Date

OTHER WAYS TO PAY (please tick if appropriate) ☐ direct debit ☐ cheque