



ROCHDALE PIONEER

Members Newsletter from Rochdale UNISON

June 2014

WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE YES

Rochdale UNISON Members meeting
Thursday 5th June- 12noon
Rochdale Town Hall

Ballot papers have now been issued asking members in Local Government if they are prepared to take industrial action over this year's pay offer. The Government are once again offering a below inflation pay rise.

Since 2010 Local Government pay has been held below inflation. In real terms the average UNISON member is now £3,000 a year worse off. While your bills have gone up your pay has not.

In Rochdale we were forced to take 3 days of unpaid leave (an additional 1.25% pay cut) in 2012. Essential & Casual car user allowance payments were also cut.

We are now asking for some fairness on pay. Our members work hard often in very stressful conditions. We want the Government to find the money to pay a £1 per hour increase for everyone in Local Government and the Living Wage (£7.65 per hour) for the lowest paid.

Come to the meeting to hear more about the campaign.

Together We Are Stronger

If you are reading this and you are not a UNISON member but would like to join then please contact the Branch Office or Join UNISON at www.joinunison.org

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Figure it out

Richest 1000 in UK
Wealth Increase 2014

15%

Pay offer for 5.5 million
public sector workers 2014

1%

The Sunday Times rich list for 2014 shows once again that it is one rule for those at the top and another for the rest of us. While we have been enduring the Government's austerity programme it is boom time for the already bloated bank accounts of the super-rich. The top 1000 have seen their wealth increase to £519,000,000,000 this year. Britain now has 100 billionaires- more than any other country.

"Food banks, payday loan sharks, benefit cuts, are the daily diet of the poor. Among our own members, we have seen a rise in those seeking help through our charity There for You. The pay freeze and squeeze has left them with reduced income, while prices soar. In our pay claims, we haven't asked for the earth. We just want a fair share – a decent living wage. Out of all the wealth that the workers of this nation create, there is enough to go round to give everyone a decent quality of life. All it takes is the political will."

Dave Prentis- UNISON General Secretary

FACEBOOK

Members you need to know that Rochdale UNISON have seen a sharp increase in the number of Safeguarding cases, which are mainly within Children's Services and Schools. It is an issue which affects ALL staff and leads to disciplinary action in some cases which can/could lead to a dismissal.

We have put together some safety tips, which we believe could help protect you at work:

- Ensure your Facebook privacy settings are set so only people YOU choose (Friends) can view your pages, photos etc.
- DO NOT under any circumstances 'make friends' with any Service User.
- Do not discuss/ post comments about work on your status. The Local Authority is your employer and you can and will be disciplined for posting anything derogatory relating to your Employer, Managers, Colleagues, Service Users or your Workplace.
- It is not wise to comment on Facebook about your personal life activities when you are on sick leave.

MAKE SURE YOU READ AND UNDERSTAND THE COUNCIL'S ACCEPTABLE USE OF ICT POLICY

The policy can be found on the RMBC intranet:
http://hrportal.rochdale.local/hr_policy_centre.aspx
(scroll down to see the Acceptable Use of ICT Policy)

Government must back up guidance on medicines in schools with cash

UNISON, the UK's largest Education union, is calling on the Government to back the guidance on health support for pupils by identifying cash for the required training of staff.

The union has broadly welcomed clearer legal guidance issued in May that is designed to help pupils with medical conditions and the staff who support them.

Pupils currently receive health support from a wide range of school support staff, including Teaching Assistants, Clerical Assistants and even Finance Officers.

The union is calling on the Government to commit resources and funding to ensure that staff are given the training they need to implement individual healthcare plans, and safely carry out what can sometimes be complex medical procedures.

Jon Richards, UNISON Head of Education, said:

"At a time when training budgets are being cut, schools will not be able to implement the guidance unless they have the money to pay for training, as we pointed out in our response to the consultation".

UNISON has campaigned long and hard to address inconsistencies in the provision of health support and the administration of medicines, which has left both pupils and the staff that provide these services vulnerable.

Jon Richards added:

"Support staff in schools add these vital extra duties to a range of other complex responsibilities and yet the average annual wage for Teaching Assistants is only around £11,700. UNISON believes that the time has come for them to receive the recognition and reward that they deserve."

Changed your details?

Have you moved home, changed your surname, employer, workplace or Job title and not let UNISON know?

Please let us have your new details- even if you think you may have already told us it is worth checking to ensure your record is up to date and that you receive all essential information from UNISON.

Please complete and return the slip below or contact the Branch Office directly to make the changes:

Name: New Employer/Workplace.....

Old Address:

New Address:

Job Title:.....

Return to: Rochdale UNISON 46 Richard Street Rochdale OL11 1DU

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