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Introducing your new Assistant Branch Secretary

Following on from Jon Harding being elected as Branch Secretary, the Branch Committee have elected **Mick Acton** as the new Assistant Branch Secretary. Mick previously worked at Green Lane and has been an active Rep and Health & Safety Rep and Branch Committee Member for over 10 years.



Treasury plans for public sector pay will 'hammer' workers, says UNISON

Commenting on media reports that the Treasury is planning a new approach to public sector pay, with wage increases based on performance and location, UNISON general secretary Dave Prentis said:

"So-called 'regional pay' is a complete non-starter for public sector workers, who have already seen the value of their wages fall massively under this government.

"What the Chancellor really means when he talks of wanting greater 'flexibility' is to hammer the pay of everyone who works for the NHS, schools, local councils and police forces.

"Nurses, care workers and teaching assistants are already paid far less than their hard work and incredible performance deserves. Public sector employees shouldn't have to face yet more hurdles just to get a fair wage."

Three simple ways to join UNISON today:

www.joinunison.org

Call UNISON

0800 171 2193

Contact the Branch for an application form

UNISON research shows parents and carers struggle to stay in work because of inflexible working conditions

Parents and other staff with caring duties are having to quit their jobs in some cases because of inflexible working conditions, according to research published by UNISON.

Nearly half (47%) the survey respondents say they think employers discriminate against employees who are responsible for looking after loved ones. More than three quarters (78%) also believe that staying in a job is harder for carers or parents.

The findings are based on results from nearly 3,000 respondents across the UK, including employees with caring responsibilities (88%) who have either looked after an adult or are a parent, including those with disabled children.

The results highlight how employers and the government are failing to support the estimated nine million parents and two million carers currently in work.

More than three quarters (76%) of carers and parents have been forced to make changes to their careers, according to the survey. Of those who've had to do this, some have quit altogether (17%), others have taken unpaid leave (32%), or an hourly pay cut (9%). More than one in ten (14%) say they have been turned down for promotion, or decided not to ask for a more senior role.

The vast majority (95%) of people who responded to the survey want employers to do more to help carers balance their job responsibilities with their duties outside work. The same number want the government to provide more support.

Paid care leave and career breaks with a guaranteed return to their job are among solutions backed by those who took part.

A separate [poll and report](#)* published in September by UNISON and charity Coram Family and Childcare also showed that employers and the government need to do more to support carers and parents in the workplace.

UNISON and Coram are also calling on the government to introduce ten days a year of paid carer's leave, the right to up to a year of unpaid leave for carers, free resources and training to support employers.

Alternative Futures Group Staff Care at Night- Pay Us Right

AFG plan to remove the top up payment that staff receive for sleep in shifts, taking pay below the minimum wage. Staff will lose £30 for every sleep in that they do- leaving some staff out of pocket by £90 per week.

Its time to take action:

Members meeting:

1pm Tuesday 6th November
Flying Horse Hotel,
Packer Street,
Rochdale,
OL161NJ

Contact Joanne Findlay 07946553898
Non members can join on the door

Health and Safety reps wanted

UNISON takes the health and safety of all workers and the public we serve very seriously. To help us to protect your safety we have health and safety representatives who can deal with issues as they arise. We are currently looking for volunteers to become Health and Safety reps — especially at Number One Riverside, Rochdale Boroughwide Housing and throughout Schools. You would not be expected to do this on your own and would be working alongside the Branch Secretary and Branch Health and Safety Officer. We will provide full training to anyone who is interested.

If you are interested or just want to find out more about what the role involves please contact the office 01706925952.