

UNISON News

Winter 2019

News from the largest union in Rochdale Council

Local Government Pay Review Update

Members will be aware that there was a two year national local government pay settlement for 2018 – 2020. The award involved a minimum annual increase of 2% for most staff with higher increases for low paid members.

The increase due under the first year of the pay deal was implemented with effect from 1 April 2018, however the second year of the pay deal required local negotiations with Councils because grading structures vary across different authorities.



In our negotiations with Rochdale Council, UNISON had a number of objectives to ensure the increase is applied fairly:

- No member of staff to receive less than the Foundation Living Wage
- No detriment for any member of staff in any revised grades
- Where possible, decrease the amount of time it takes staff to progress to the top of their grade
- No increase to the amount of time it will take staff to reach the top of their grade
- The implementation of the pay increase due in 2019 – 20 to be in place with effect from 1 April 2019

The Branch is pleased to inform all members that we have achieved all of these outcomes. Increases in the lower graded posts will result in many lower paid members receiving additional pay and the reduction in the incremental points in some grades will mean affected staff will progress to the top of their grade quicker. A copy of the new grading structure is available on the branch website: www.unison-rochdale.org

Following consultation with our members on the proposal from the local authority, UNISON will now be moving forward to reach a collective agreement with the Council and the new grading structure – and associated pay rise – will come into effect from 1 April 2019.

UNISON Rochdale Branch AGM

Wednesday 27th February, 7am @ Green Lane, Heywood

Wednesday 27th February, 12:00 @ Rochdale Town Hall

Wednesday 27th February, 5:30pm @ Middleton Cricket Club

Come to elect branch officers and have your say on how the branch is run and what our campaign priorities are.

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME. FREE FOOD AND UNISON GOODIES



It's Time to Fight Back—Have Your Say on Our Campaign Priorities

UNISON Rochdale has launched a local workplace survey to determine our campaigning priorities for the year.



Being part of a trade union isn't just about individual protection at work, it's about standing together and fighting for improvements to pay and terms and conditions.

Over the last few years, local authority staff have endured a relentless attack on terms and conditions, including below-inflationary pay rises, enforced unpaid annual leave, slower pay progression and the removal of other benefits. How long are Council staff going to pay the price for government austerity?

Now is the time to fight back – but we need to know what matters to you most. We want to know what staff think and what your most important campaigning issues are.

All members should have received an email with a link to complete our online survey. If you haven't received our email, or we don't have your email on file, please contact the branch office to update your details.

Please take a couple of minutes to complete our online survey. All responses are treated in the strictest confidence.

We need as many members as possible to complete our survey. Follow the link in your email or visit: <http://sgiz.eu/s3/Rochdale-Staff-Survey>

Get Involved and Support the Campaign

Would you like to get more involved in UNISON's campaign to improve your working life?

Have you ever thought about being a UNISON steward or workplace rep?

Would you like to arrange a meeting with a UNISON organiser to discuss the survey or our campaign?



If you'd like to find out more, please contact UNISON Local Organiser Jane Warburton on j.warburton@unison.co.uk or **07903 853 022**

UNISON Welfare—*There For You*

There for You is UNISON's Welfare charity which provides a unique and confidential service to our members. This service includes financial assistance – from winter fuel grants to help with buying school uniforms – wellbeing breaks and general advice. *There for You* also runs a debtline providing free, impartial and confidential debt advice over the phone and gives access to a nationwide network of credit unions.



Did you know? Since 2003 UNISON has given over £10 million in financial assistance to our members and their families. In 2012 *There For You* gave more than 4,000 grants totalling nearly £750,000

There's no guarantee that we'll be able to offer financial help, but thousands of members and their families do benefit from our support every year.

If you would like more information, contact *There for You* on **020 7121 5620** or email thereforyou@unison.co.uk