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We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 25th February.

Kevan Nelson NW Regional Secretary will be addressing the meeting and explaining UNISON's priorities for the year ahead. There will be a free buffet and this year we are giving away prizes to people who attend including a Made in Dagenham DVD (The story of how women machinists at Ford Dagenham went on strike for equal pay with men and won leading to the introduction of the 1970 Equal Pay Act)

You can attend either at lunchtime 12 -1.45 pm Reception Room, Rochdale Town Hall or in the evening 6 - 7.45pm Phoenix Centre, Heywood.

Please ring the branch on 01706 925951/52 or email unison@rochdale.gov.uk to confirm your attendance.

NOT YET A MEMBER?

Three simple ways to join UNISON today:

Join online at

Joinunison.org

Call UNISON

0800 171 2193

Fill in the form
on the back and
send it to the
address below

Cuts see rise in 15 minute home care visits

More councils in England are commissioning 15 minute home care visits for vulnerable people- even though the government claims that it wants to clamp down on rushed visits, reveals a new UNISON study. It showed that 110 councils commission 15 minute visits, which make up one in seven of all homecare visits.

General secretary Dave Prentis called the figures a scandal, adding that “what we are seeing is the institutionalisation of dangerously low levels of care which comprises the dignity of the elderly and vulnerable people in our community who rely on this care, and places unfair pressures on homecare workers.”

And what that means for actual people was illustrated by one home care worker who told the union: “On my run there are a number of 15 minute visits. One visit is to a man in his mid-nineties who is very frail and slow to move, especially in the morning. I have been given 15 minutes to into his house, wake him up, assist him to the bathroom, give him a shower, help get him dry and dressed and then make his breakfast and make sure he takes his medication. I have told my organiser that this takes at least around 30 to 45 minutes. Her reply was that other workers can do it in this time.”

Mr Prentis was clear about where responsibility for this lay.

“The government is cutting council budgets by 40% while the need for care continues to rise. This forces councils to spread the care budget thinner and thinner, trying to make it go round. This symbolises all that is wrong with our increasingly undignified and underfunded care system.”

UNISON are therefore campaigning to get councils to sign up to the union’s Ethical Care Charter. The charter sets minimum standards to protect the dignity and quality of life for people who need home care. It commits councils to making sure providers give workers the time and training to provide better quality care for thousands of service users who rely on it as well as a living wage. The charter can be downloaded from : unison.org.uk/catalogue/22014

Not a UNISON member? Join today online at joinunison.org or complete and return the application form on the back-page of this newsletter

Change of details/email addresses

If you have recently changed your details i.e. moved address or work location it is important you let the Branch Office know as we need to ensure our records are up to date , so you can receive all the relevant information from UNISON.

How long do I have to belong to UNISON before I can get legal support for a workplace issue?

In UNISON a member can qualify for legal assistance after only four weeks of membership. The matter for which the member needs advice cannot be a pre-existing complaint. So a member can receive legal advice for an issue that has arisen only four weeks after membership has started, at the earliest.

If the issue or complaint is pre-existing, the member cannot be offered legal assistance on that particular matter. However this rule does not affect new members who join and bring equal pay claims as part of the union's mass litigation process. People who join the union in those circumstances will have their claims included in the litigation if there are legal merits in their claim. The four week rule will apply to them for all other legal services. The four week qualifying period will commence on the date that UNISON receives an appropriately completed application form.

Emergency food for local people in need!

Rochdale UNISON Branch office holds a collection box for Rochdale Food bank, we collect items such as tins, boxed food, jars and sachets (not fresh food). The food is then donated to the Food bank for local people in need. If you would like to contribute feel free to arrange to drop off items at the Branch office or go directly to Rochdale Food bank, 8 South Parade (the old Pacific Bar) opening hours Monday- Friday between 11am - 12.50pm.

Have you ever thought about getting more involved with UNISON?

One of the best ways we can improve communications is to have a workplace contact – someone who passes on emails and newsletters to colleagues, keeping your fellow members and colleagues up to date.

Workplaces with union stewards are always much stronger and we provide free steward training and support new reps in their workplaces.

Have you ever thought about getting more involved? Or would you just like to know more about what the role involves? If you want to know more—and maybe attend one of our informal meetings —please get in touch.

Join UNISON – essential cover if you work in public services

Return to: UNISON Rochdale, 46 Richard St, Rochdale, OL11 1DU

1 Tell us about you

Title	First name
Surname/family name	Date of birth / /

Home address	Postcode
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email	National insurance number (from your payslip)
Phone number (please indicate if home, work or mobile)	

Please give your ethnic origin: (tick one box)

☐ Bangladeshi	☐ Pakistani	☐ Black African	☐ Black UK	☐ White UK
☐ Chinese	☐ Asian UK	☐ Black	☐ Black other	☐ Irish
☐ Indian	☐ Asian other	☐ Caribbean		☐ White other

2 Tell us about your job

Employer's name
Your job title/occupation
Workplace name and address
Postcode
Payroll number (from your payslip)

3 What you will pay each month

Please tick the appropriate box for your earnings before deductions.

Annual pay	Your subscription
Up to £2,000	£1.30
£2,001–£5,000	£3.50
£5,001–£8,000	£5.30
£8,001–£11,000	£6.60
£11,001–£14,000	£7.85
£14,001–£17,000	£9.70
£17,001–£20,000	£11.50
£20,001–£25,000	£14.00
£25,001–£30,000	£17.25
£30,001–£35,000	£20.30
over £35,000	£22.50

4 Choose your political fund

One of the ways UNISON works on your behalf is through political campaigning. Your subscription includes a political fund payment so you won't pay any extra, but in UNISON you choose how you want that money to be used.

Please tick one box only.

☐ Our Affiliated Political Fund takes UNISON members' views directly into the Labour Party, working to promote UNISON policies.

☐ The General Political Fund is used to pay for branch, regional and national campaigns but is independent of any political party.

5 Choose how you wish to pay Please tick ONE box only

EITHER deduct from salary:

☐ I wish to join UNISON and authorise deduction of subscriptions from my pay by my employer.

Signature

OR pay by direct debit:
please complete the direct debit form below

☐ I wish to join UNISON and authorise deduction of subscriptions by direct debit

Date

Please go to unison.org.uk/privacy-policy to see how we will protect and use your personal information

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the form and send to UNISON, 130 Euston Road London NW1 2AY



Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

To: The Manager Bank/building society

Address	Postcode
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Name(s) of Account holder(s)

Bank/building society account number
Branch sort code

Service User Number

9 7 0 0 5 0

Reference number (for office use only do not complete)

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Please pay UNISON Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with UNISON and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature(s)
Date

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account