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We Need a Decent Pay Rise

The three local government unions, representing 1.4m council and school employees in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, have called for a significant wage rise.

UNISON, GMB and Unite say a decent pay award is essential as staff continue to struggle with the cost-of-living crisis, while the value of their wages has plummeted for more than a decade.

Unless councils and schools can pay competitive rates, employees will find better-paid, less-stressful work elsewhere and new recruits will be thin on the ground.

The joint pay claim, which would apply from the start of April, is for all council employees to receive a wage rise of £3,000 or 10%, whichever is higher.

Council staff have seen 25% wiped from the value of their pay since 2010.

A wage rise well above inflation is the only way to maintain the staff levels necessary to deliver services to the public.

Many of us have experienced considerable increases in our workloads as a result of budget cuts and our personal finances have taken a severe hit from the cost-of-living crisis.

Council and school employees – including refuse collectors, librarians, teaching assistants, care workers, cleaners and catering staff – should be properly rewarded for the vital community services we provide.

Financial assistance from UNISON

You may have financial difficulties for all sorts of unexpected reasons, such as: Loss of income; Relationship breakdown; Bereavement; Suffering from a long illness; Needing to buy equipment because of a disability; Caring for someone with special needs or an illness.

There for You is proud to support thousands of members and their families every year with things such as: general living costs, household appliances, urgent repairs, disability equipment and adaptations, utility bills and funeral costs.

To be eligible to apply for financial assistance, you must have been a member of UNISON for at least four weeks and up-to-date with your subscriptions. Also, that the financial difficulties that led you to apply occurred after you joined. Partners or dependents can also apply.

To apply, please download an application form, fill it out and return it to us along with scans, screenshots or photos of your supporting paperwork.

If you have difficulty completing the form, email us at thereforyou@unison.co.uk or call 020 7121 5620 and leave a message with your contact details. We will be in touch as soon as possible to help you through the process.

Salford UNISON's Steve North to run a marathon for Medical Aid for Palestinians

UNISON has asked members and branches to do all we can to raise money for Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP). Steve North branch secretary of Salford UNISON will be running the Manchester Marathon on 14th April in support of this vital cause.

Gaza has been blockaded for 16 years and has been described by many as the biggest open air prison in the world as well as being one of the most densely populated areas.

The people of Gaza are facing the worst situation in its history with daily bombardment and a complete siege. MAP needs our help to raise critical funds to help save lives in Gaza.

Zero Stock medicines, Gaza: £100 could help pay for 8 pediatric disposable breathing circuit wires, for children in intensive care; £75 could buy 1 pediatric respiratory cannula for ventilation, which could save a child's life; £50 could pay for 6 Intravenous drip bags for patients in cardiac arrest; £25 could help buy 15 blood line inlets for lifesaving blood transfusions; £10 could pay for 2,000mg of lifesaving antibiotics.

To sponsor Steve follow the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/steven-north-1707385134153>

Please check that your UNISON colleagues have received this newsletter electronically—if not please ask them to contact the branch on 01706 925952 or [email unison@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:email.unison@rochdale.gov.uk) so we can update their membership record