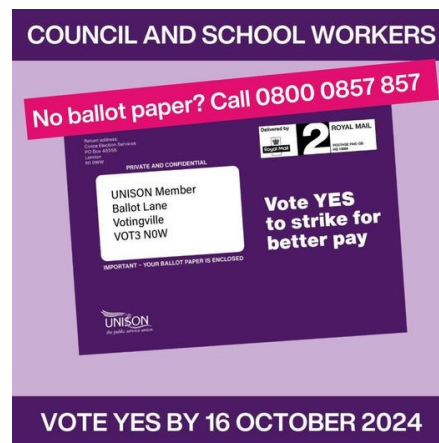


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Have you voted for better pay?



The ballot for strike action over the employers' below inflation pay offer ends on 16th October. If you have a ballot paper you need to send it back straight away if you want to have your say.

We need a decent pay rise to compensate for rises in inflation last year and in previous years.

Doctors have recently accepted a pay rise of over 20% over 2 years. While it does not restore their pay to what it was in 2010 it is a step in the right direction. Nurses have just rejected the Governments offer of 5.5% (much more than most of our members are being offered).

The cost of living is still going up. Typical mortgages are increasing by £180 per month (28%). Childcare costs increased 6% last year with the average cost of a full time nursery place for a child under two now standing at £15,709 per year. Gas and electricity prices have risen by 10% following a rise in the energy price cap.

The Government could afford to pay a decent pay rise without cutting jobs or services if they raise taxes on billionaires and multimillionaires. A 1% wealth tax on the super rich would raise £25 billion a year more than enough to fund a decent pay rise.

The doctors achieved their pay rise by taking strike action. If you have already voted, talk to your colleagues and make sure they have voted to. If your ballot paper has not come in the post phone 0800 0 857 857 straight away.

Ceasefire Now! TUC Workplace Day of Action 10th October

On Thursday 10 October the TUC, Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Stop the War and other organisations are requesting trade union branches in the UK to support a workplace day of action to end the war in Gaza.

The last 12 months have had a devastating impact on workers. In Gaza 886 health workers, 416 education workers, 302 aid workers and many other public service workers have been killed. Unemployment rates in the occupied Palestinian territory have surged to 51 percent, including 79 percent in Gaza.

Palestinian trade unions are calling for an immediate ceasefire, access to humanitarian assistance and for the arms trade with Israel to be suspended.

Rochdale UNISON will be collecting for Medical Aid for Palestine and one of our members will be doing the 50 Km Stride for Gaza challenge. You can donate online here:

<https://medicalaidforpalestinians.enthuse.com/pf/sam-o-brien>

If you would like to be involved on the day in Rochdale please contact unison@rochdale.gov.uk

Black History Month event 17th October



Rochdale Council have are staging a production of the play "Going Home" by the [Odd Arts Theatre Group](#). Odd Arts uses theatre to raise awareness to challenge inequalities and increase opportunities for people facing the greatest level of discrimination and disadvantage.

The play is a powerful and moving experience that explores identity, belonging, and the complexities of navigating life as a person of colour in England. Through an interactive performance, "Going Home" invites you to engage in discussions about racism, privilege, and cultural identity as it follows the journey of three friends during the England versus Croatia football match. This unique format allows the audience to participate, making the event both thought-provoking and engaging.

We will also have a guest speaker - Nahella Ashraf, the co-chair of Greater Manchester Stand Up to Racism.

Black History Month is for everyone—people of all colours and backgrounds are encouraged to take part. This event aims to raise awareness, deepen understanding of black history and foster discussions that contribute to a fairer world for all.

Rochdale UNISON are encouraging our members to [Book on to the event](#) to take place between 2pm and 5pm in the Hollingworth Room in the Training and Conference Suite at Number One Riverside on Thursday 17 October.

Unison supports National Pensioners Convention campaign on Winter Fuel

The NPC is bringing together major UK campaigners and charities to tell MPs why cutting universal winter fuel payments will be a death sentence for many older and vulnerable people this winter.

We are inviting all 650 MPs to a Lobby of Parliament from 2pm to 4pm on Monday 7th October to hear evidence on the true impact of the government's decision to restrict the payment to those on pension credit.

A move the Treasury says will see the number of people receiving help with their energy bills people in England and Wales drop from 11.4 million to 1.5 million.

The NPC, the UK's largest campaigning organisation run for and by older people, believes ending universal support will tragically lead to many falling ill and thousands dying. And we are far from alone – we will be joined at the Lobby by among others, Age UK*, Disability Rights UK, Independent Age, the WASPI campaign, and Fuel Poverty Action, and as well as unions like Unite, who are calling for the cuts to be reversed, or at least delayed. There will also be protests in Northern Ireland, and in Scotland led by the Scottish Pensioners' forum. Jan Shortt, NPC General Secretary said, "It is testament to the seriousness of this issue that so many organisations and groups, representing so many sectors of our society will be taking part in this important Lobby of Parliament.

"The impact of the cuts will not just plunge up to another two million older and vulnerable people further into poverty (Age UK), it will undoubtedly result in deaths as many are too frightened to turn on their heating or eat hot food.

"The NPC was heartened by the trade unions vote at this week's Labour Party Conference, led by Unite the Union which called on the government to reverse this damaging decision. While we know the vote was non-binding, so it couldn't force a reversal of policy, it is indicative of the strength of feeling within the party and across society as a whole."

The government won a vote earlier this month on its plans to remove winter fuel payments, worth around £200-300, from older and vulnerable people in England and Wales who are not on pension credit, or a handful of other entitlements.

*Age UK's petition against the cuts already has more than half a million signatures – you can still sign here: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/our-impact/campaigning/save-the-winter-fuel-payment/>)

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