

# Barnsley matters

Campaigns update

## Local Government Pay Campaign



### Claim

In June 2017 the National Joint Council (NJC) Trade Unions submitted a one year pay claim for 2018/2019:

- The deletion of NJC pay points 6-9 to establish the Foundation Living Wage of £8.45 per hour
- Plus a 5% increase on all pay points.

### Offer

In The Local Government Association (LGA) has made a **two year** pay offer covering the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2020.

Key features of the offer are:

From 1st April 2018:

- Tiered increases ranging from 9% to 4% on the lowest pay scale (6) through to pay scale 19
- 2% increase from pay scale 20 and above

From 1st April 2019:

- A new NJC pay spine (1-44) with a bottom rate set at £9 per hour on pay scale 1
- 2% incremental steps between each new pay scale from 1 to 22
- 2% cost of living increase from the new pay scale point 23 and

above including those on locally extended NJC pay spines.

The UNISON NJC Committee met on 23rd January and whilst they accepted that this was probably the best offer that could be achieved through negotiation, the committee view was a recommendation to **REJECT** the offer as it falls short of our claim.

### Consultation

A process of Branch and Member consultation has now begun. All members who are subject to NJC terms and conditions should have received a ballot paper through the post. Thanks to everyone who has responded, despite some delays to postal deliveries in the recent bad weather. The Branch has collated our results and fed these back to the Regional Office. Please watch out for further updates about the overall response to the National Employers, either to reject or accept the pay offer.

## Aggression and Violence in Schools

You may have read the Barnsley Chronicle article from Friday 22nd December 2017 which highlighted our concerns about the rising number of incidents of aggression and violence towards staff in BMBC schools and Barnsley Academies.

Our members working in schools deserve to be treated with dignity and respect in line with the BMBC zero tolerance policy regarding violence and aggression.

The increasing number of incidents of this nature appears to be a national trend and the BMBC corporate health and safety statistics for 2016/2017 record an increase of reported incidents in primary and secondary schools. UNISON want to be assured that BMBC are aware of this trend and are seeking to take action to address the issue.

*Continues overleaf*

## CONTACT US

01226 772988

branchoffice@unisonbarnsleylg.org

www.unison-barnsley.org.uk

@UnisonBarnsley

UnisonBarnsley

## Aggression and Violence in Schools

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To this end, UNISON, alongside other unions, raised the issue at a recent Consultative Committee for People with Councillor Cheetham, Cabinet Spokesperson for People Achieving Potential. He was supportive, took on board our concerns and agreed to facilitate and contribute to the aforementioned press release in the Barnsley Chronicle. In addition, Councillor Cheetham is to formally request that schools ensure that they display zero tolerance signs, raise the issue with the Schools Alliance Board and emphasise the importance of BMBC schools (including academies) abiding by the BMBC Personal Safety at Work Code of Practice.

This news item was picked up by a local commercial radio station who reported on the issue in early January 2018.

The Branch also undertook a Member Survey and received 49 responses, the results of which have yet to be analysed but UNISON will continue to monitor reported levels of violence and aggression in schools and seek to ensure that the message is heard, loud and clear, that such behaviour should not and will not be tolerated.

# Annual General Meeting 2018

Our AGM was held on 22 February at Barnsley Town Hall as two aggregate meetings. The meetings were well attended and featured guest speakers from Crisis, who the branch sponsored during 2017 and Thompsons Solicitors who outlined some of the free legal services available to UNISON members. Branch Secretary, Ben Harvey outlined the achievements of the branch during the past 12 months and the ambitions for the coming year which are: recruitment and retention of members, focusing on issue-led recruitment; raising the profile of the



branch; bargaining and collective negotiation; and developing efficient and effective systems within branch to make best use of the information we hold. Thank you to everyone who attended and for those who took the trouble to give us feedback about the meeting.

### BRANCH OFFICERS

**Branch Chairperson** *April Pepper*  
**Branch Vice Chairperson** *Simon Tewson*  
**Branch Secretary** *Ben Harvey*  
**Assistant Branch Secretary** *Rhona Bywater*  
**Recruitment Officer** *Vacant*  
**Branch Treasurer** *Jenni Healey*  
**Assistant Branch Treasurer** *Lauramay Beynon*  
**Communications Officer** *Simon Tewson*  
**Pensions Delegate** *Kevin Swift*  
**Health & Safety Coordinator** *Liam Roddis*

**Equalities Officer** *Vacant*  
**Education Officer** *Gillian Nixon*  
**Welfare Officer** *Mick O'Roarke*  
**Sports & Social Secretary** *Owen Adams*  
**International Officer** *Vacant*  
**Young Members Officer** *Vacant*  
**Labour Link Officer** *Maxine Russell*  
**Retired Members Secretary** *Kevin Swift*  
**LGBT Officer** *Ben Harvey*

### STEWARDS NOMINATIONS

<b>Owen Adams</b>	<i>Dimensions</i>
<b>Lauramay Beynon</b>	<i>BMBC – The Dearne ALC</i>
<b>Paul Bonds</b>	<i>BMBC – Place – Right to Buy – Westgate</i>
<b>Julie Brooke</b>	<i>BMBC – Holy Trinity</i>
<b>Rhona Bywater</b>	<i>BMBC – Core Services – Legal &amp; Governance Town Hall</i>
<b>Diane George</b>	<i>BMBC – Dearne Goldthorpe Primary</i>
<b>Jenni Healey</b>	<i>United Learning – Worsbrough Bank End Primary</i>
<b>Andy Hemingway</b>	<i>Berneslai Homes – Gateway Plaza</i>
<b>Ben Hobson</b>	<i>BMBC – Place – Smithies Depot</i>
<b>Chris Knowles</b>	<i>BMBC – Communities – IT</i>
<b>Mick O'Roarke</b>	<i>BMBC – People – Youth Service – Penistone</i>
<b>Liam Roddis</b>	<i>BMBC – Place – Smithies Depot</i>
<b>Lisa Rourke</b>	<i>BMBC – Churchfield Primary</i>
<b>Simon Tewson</b>	<i>SYPA, 18 Regent Street</i>
<b>Alistair West</b>	<i>Berneslai Homes – Construction – Carlton Depot</i>
<b>Steve Wilson</b>	<i>BMBC – Communities – IT</i>

### H&S REP NOMINATIONS

**Leslie Elvin**  
*BMBC – Churchfield Primary*

### LEARNING REP NOMINATIONS

**Lisa Rourke**  
*BMBC – Churchfield Primary*

# Branch Sponsorship



**During December 2017 we promoted a Crisis project in which we asked UNISON members if they could donate any unwanted toiletries or staple store cupboard items in order to assist homeless people when they make the transition into accommodation.**

As anticipated, you supported us in this project such that several large boxes of items were collected. We also had donations of coats and other warm clothing which were collected by Crisis and distributed at an event called HARC (Homeless and Rootless at Christmas).

Our partnership with Crisis South Yorkshire has raised awareness of the issue of homelessness amongst our members and the events that we have held (bag packing at Tesco, a walk around Wortley Hall grounds, the above donations and of course the Branch donation of £250).

Mandy Carlson, a Director of Crisis South Yorkshire had this message for you all:

"I'd like to pass on my thanks to the local UNISON Barnsley branch for their support over the last year. They have come up with some great ideas to raise funds and we have enjoyed bag packing in Tesco and sponsored walks with the team.

These have provided for both a great time and the opportunity for my staff to get to know the UNISON team and for questions about homelessness, Crisis and the local picture to be put to my team. We have also been really grateful for the donations of toiletries and food

from staff from UNISON, BMBC and other employers.

These have been gratefully received by our members who are setting up new tenancies and looking forward to a life outside of homelessness. A further great outcome was the donation of coats and other items of warm clothing that we passed on to a local charity providing a welcoming warm and safe Christmas for homeless people.

This has been a fantastic opportunity for Crisis Skylight members to benefit from the support and generosity of UNISON members and for UNISON to broaden their understanding around this complex issue and I hope we will continue to work together in the future to help homeless people in our area."



# Sponsorship for 2018

**Each year the Branch undertakes to sponsor a locally based charity organisation via donations from Branch funds and fundraising activities in order to try and engage with the local community, raise the profile of the Branch and UNISON whilst at the same time help worthy causes in the area.**

In 2016 the Branch sponsored Barnsley Youth Choir and in 2017, Crisis Skylight South Yorkshire.

Nominations have been sought from Members for 2018 and the Branch received four worthy proposals from members:



- Redfearns Junior Football Club
- Barnsley Singers
- Barnsley Museums and Heritage Trust
- Barnsley Hospice

These suggestions were discussed and

debated at the Stewards Forum on 1st February and in the vote that followed, Barnsley Hospice was successful.

The branch will be helping to raise funds for the Comfort and Care Campaign, which aims to renovate the 10 en-suite rooms at the hospice. The nomination was put forward by UNISON Branch Chair, April Pepper, inspired by

a friend whose husband was diagnosed with terminal cancer and sadly passed away at the hospice shortly before the sponsorship was ratified at the AGM in February. April reports that she was able to let her friends, Julie and David, know about the nomination shortly before David passed away which meant a great deal to them both.

## Financial Advice

**Lighthouse Financial Advice** are holding a surgery day in Branch on **Tuesday 8th May**.

Please contact the branch for instructions on how to make an appointment with a financial adviser.

# SYPA join the Living Wage Foundation



Whilst UNISON is campaigning for fair pay for our members, we are pleased to report that South Yorkshire Pensions Authority (SYPA) has agreed to implement the Living Wage, following negotiations led by UNISON.

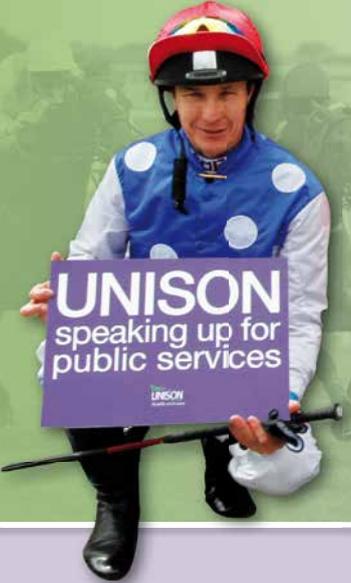
The Living Wage is an informal and voluntary benchmark promoted by the Living Wage Foundation. This benchmark is based upon the amount that they stipulate that an individual needs to earn (currently £8.75 an hour) to

cover the basic costs of living. It is important to note that it is not related to the Government's minimum wage, which was cynically renamed as the national living wage by George Osborne in his time as Chancellor.

At SYPA the Living Wage has been implemented with effect from 1st October 2017 and this has resulted in twelve members of staff receiving a salary supplement.

UNISON: ESSENTIAL COVER FOR THOSE DELIVERING PUBLIC SERVICES

## DONCASTER RACEDAY SATURDAY AFTERNOON 4 AUGUST 2018



**UNISON**  
Yorkshire and Humberside

Please note: There will be a £2.75 transaction charge on all ticket bookings

**Exclusive special ticket offer for UNISON members**

**'2 for 1' Grandstand Tickets**  
**Total price £13 (2 tickets)**

On sale: from 1 February 2018  
Offer closes: 5.00pm on 27 July 2018

To book tickets call **01302 304200** and quote 'the UNISON raceday offer', your UNISON membership number or UNISON branch code.

**UPGRADE!** Members can upgrade to **two** County Stand tickets for £30 (These are usually £32.50 each!)

## Congratulations

Two senior UNISON activists both have reason to celebrate and we're very proud of their achievements.

Gillian Nixon, our Education and Lifelong Learning Officer was recently presented with an award from UNISON President Margaret McKee, for her contribution to promoting Lifelong Learning.

April Pepper, Branch Chairperson and Convenor at BMBC has been accepted onto the UNISON Leadership School at Warwick University with her successful project proposal to recruit young people into UNISON. April is the only activist (lay member) to represent the Yorkshire and Humberside Region.

Well done to both of you!



Gillian Nixon (left) with Margaret McKee