

FEBRUARY 2020

## BARNSLEY UNISON BRANCH SPECIAL BULLETIN FOR MEMBERS IN THE INDEPENDENT CARE SECTOR

# Barnsley care workers to get eighteen percent pay increase



UNISON and BMBC agree on increased wages for care workers

UNISON has been in discussions with Barnsley Council for a number of years to gain support for UNISON's ethical care charter, which would be a commitment to fair pay and fair working practices in all care services the Council directly provide or commission.

As part of these discussions, the Council has now told UNISON that it will be putting forward proposals to implement an "Excellence in Care Programme", which is hoped will tackle some of the issues of recruitment and retention of staff and also low Care Quality Commission (CQC)

ratings of residential care homes across the borough.

A report will go to the Council's Cabinet on 18 February setting out the proposals. If approved by Cabinet, these proposals will mean that from 1 April the hourly rate of pay of approximately 3,000 care workers will increase to £9.72, which is an 18.4% increase from the current "national living wage" (the statutory minimum wage for over 25s).

There will also be a framework to address issues of training and staff development to allow staff to progress their careers.

*Continued overleaf >*



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## Welcome investment

This is excellent news and we welcome the Council's proposals, which we hope will address some of the issues regarding high turnover within the sector and also help some of our lowest paid members to afford a decent quality of life. Barnsley Council's funding has been cut by about £150 million since 2010 by central government so this really is welcome investment in vital care services by the Council.

The increase means that Barnsley care workers will be paid £1 an hour above the "national living wage" and will mean that a full time care worker will be about £3140 a year better off. This will make a real difference to care workers' lives and will also provide a boost to the local economy. It will help to lift some families out of inwork poverty, which is fantastic news.

## More work to be done

Whilst this increased pay rate should be celebrated, our job is far from over and we will still push for UNISON's Ethical Care Charter to be adopted in full.



Increased pay alone does not deal with all the issues our members face in the workplace; examples of these include 15-minute home care visits, staff being expected to use their own phones for work, an end to zero hours contracts and much more.

Without continued pressure from UNISON over many years, these issues would not have been raised with the Council. This is why it is vital that all care workers join UNISON so that we can maintain the pressure to make working in care a respected, well-paid job where staff are treated with dignity, no matter which company employs them.

## RECRUIT A FRIEND TO UNISON

Enclosed you will find a Recruit a Friend membership form - please talk to your colleagues about this historic victory that your membership has helped secure and how much more we could achieve with their support. The more of you that are in UNISON, the louder your voice is. You will receive £15 worth of Love2Shop vouchers for each member you recruit to UNISON. To receive your vouchers please write your name and membership number clearly on the top of all completed application forms and ensure they are returned to the Branch Office.

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But why do so many people choose to join this one?

**UNISON**  
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It could be:

- ✓ All the essential cover we provide at work
- ✓ All the benefits our membership includes

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**UNISON Speaking Up for Public Services**