

The Update

7 Jun 2021

The latest news and announcements from Derbyshire UNISON

Low Pay Britain

Living wage and proper sick pay essential



Post-pandemic contract would give low-paid care workers a better deal

The Resolution Foundation's Low Pay Britain report was published on Monday 7 June. It called for the government to give lower-earning workers a new post-pandemic contract.

Commenting on the report, UNISON general secretary Christina McAnea said:

"Care workers have been at the heart of the pandemic, giving their everything to look after the most vulnerable.

"Wholesale reform of social care is long overdue, and even when the government eventually announces it has a plan, real change will take time.

"But there's a simple step that can happen now. One that would show every care worker that ministers appreciate what they've done to keep the people we care about safe.

"The government must ensure every employer in the sector pays its staff at least the real living wage.

[The real living wage is £9.50 an hour and £10.85 in London].

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“Fixing the problem of inadequate sick pay - that’s forced care staff to carry on working when they should’ve been off isolating - should be a close second.

“That’s the very least the government should do. These would be the first steps on the long road to fixing the UK’s broken care system.”

Derbyshire UNISON area organiser Dave Gorton added:

“In my experience over the last year or so, non-council care workers are - almost to a person - totally dejected at the way they are treated by governments and employers alike.

“Many get an annual pay rise ... but only because their pay would fall beneath the minimum wage if they didn’t!

“Care workers will not continue to be treated as second- and third-class citizens for much longer. They will demand proper recognition for their efforts and the government would be well advised to pay attention now.”

The key findings and recommendations from the report can be read [here](#)

The full report can be downloaded [here](#)