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HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING

HEALTH AND SAFETY in the workplace is an issue for everyone. Every year, thousands of people suffer accidents and ill-health at work – most of which could be avoided.

We tend to think of health and safety at work as, for instance, minimising physical hazards. Today, traditional health issues, such as noise, dust and chemical hazards, are still vitally important but, of course, there are just as important issues that need tackling in areas where it is more likely to find UNISON members – in schools, care homes, offices and in service users' own premises.

Of course the Covid-19 pandemic also added further importance to these issues with much more rigid observance of issues such as risk assessments, protective equipment and ventilation.

There is also growing concern with good work-life balance which has made us aware of the relationship between our jobs and our mental and physical wellbeing. Issues like stress, bullying, facing mental health issues, the menopause all need addressing and are where UNISON reps have expanded their knowledge to help members.

Derbyshire UNISON is currently revising and will reissue on this site a number of separate factsheets dealing with such matters as temperature at work, stress, manual handling and risk assessment over the coming months.