

The Update

8 Sep 2021

The latest news and announcements from Derbyshire UNISON

VDL Update

Get involved in our Stars in our Schools / Hidden Heroes events



The latest news for Vertas (VDL) members

We are a year on since the transfer of staff from Derbyshire County Council to the new joint venture company, Vertas Derbyshire Limited (VDL).

This happened during the biggest public health crisis in a century. UNISON pushed for the transfer to be delayed so members did not have to go through the stress of the changes while working on the front line to keep our schools and other vital public services clean and safe. Sadly, the council refused.

Since transfer, UNISON has continued to raise your problems with VDL, most commonly around the issues of pay and absence. This has incorporated pushing for better communication and clarity

from managers to staff. If you have an issue at work, don't forget to contact us at branch@unisondc.co.uk / 01629 582266.

With some COVID-19 restrictions easing we aim to visit workplaces more often. If you are interested in getting UNISON in your workplace, contact Matt Dwyer at m.dwyer@unison.co.uk.

Schools reopening

With the reopening of schools, many experts believe there will be another surge in COVID-19 cases and we need to remain

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cautious. UNISON has called on the government to reintroduce the requirement to wear masks in schools and encourages members to wear masks to protect themselves and others. You can read UNISON's full advice to members working in schools [HERE](#).

Stars in our Schools - Hidden Heroes

Every year UNISON runs Stars in Our Schools events to highlight and thank members for all the work they do. This year we want to make it even bigger, with events running nationally between 22-26 November. More information on the awards and how to nominate a Hidden Hero can be found [HERE](#).

These events are not just focused on support staff directly employed by schools. They concern every member in schools, including cleaning, caretaking and kitchen staff. VDL members are very much included! If you think the schools you work in would be interested in being involved in hosting one of these events, please let us know.

Become a UNISON activist

As we announced previously, Darron Toomey is a new UNISON Steward in VDL. However, there is still plenty of great opportunities for more to get involved in UNISON, from becoming a Health and Safety or Union Learning Rep, to putting up posters in your workplace and helping recruit your colleagues. Can you join the team? Contact Matt Dwyer at m.dwyer@unison.co.uk / 07896 161026.

If your colleagues are not in UNISON, encourage them to join at joinunison.org

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