

THE ACTIVIST



Derbyshire County UNISON branch newsletter

ALLIANCE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES STAFF WIN PAY RISE

UNISON members in Alliance Environmental Services in High Peak have won a £1,590 pay rise this year, with another rise of £300 from April 2025.

Our member, were paid little more than the minimum wage for working long hours, cleaning streets, maintaining parks and collecting bins.

UNISON steward Colin said:

"We work in our local community because we take a great pride in it and want to help make it the best place to live and work that it can be. Given the hard physical work we do, the often unsocial hours in all weather conditions, I think that we are worth more than this. Nobody does this job expecting to get rich from it, but we do deserve a fair deal."

Members voted to reject the unacceptable offer from the employer to settle the 2024/25 pay award in November, and moved to ballot for strike action in January, at which point an overwhelming majority voted to take industrial action.

After getting such a strong mandate, the employer was forced to make an improved offer that properly rewarded members for their work.

This shows we can win if we all stood together. Our members in Alliance are already looking at changes they can make to improve their working lives.

If you want to build power in your workplace to win real changes, get in touch with your local steward about the first steps to do that.



NICOLA MAIN, BRANCH WELFARE OFFICER

As your elected Branch Welfare officer, I can provide our members with advice around any financial concerns they may be experiencing.

Unison's charity There4You can help with adverse life experiences such, health or family difficulties. I, can be contacted via the branch office to discuss how Unison and our partner agencies can support members facing hardship.



ADA BELFIELD TO BE SOLD

On Thursday 20 February, the Cabinet of Derbyshire County Council decided to sell the Ada Belfield care home in Belper.

UNISON joined Belper Together for a noisy demonstration outside, which was broadcast on BBC and ITV, as well as being covered by the local papers.

Sadly, this had no effect and Ada Belfield joins the eight other care homes on the market. We will continue to support all staff affected.

HADY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hady Primary School is an academy school in Chesterfield owned by Chorus Trust that is planning to sack half its teaching assistants.

Our schools Convenor Corinne Coward has met with Toby Perkins MP, who shares our support for these hard-working staff.

There is to be a PUBLIC MEETING at 7PM on THURSDAY 5 March 2025 at the African & Caribbean Community Association, Unit 2, Penmore Business Centre, Hasland Road, Chesterfield.



NEW STEWARDS NEEDED

In January we trained up a dozen or so new UNISON Stewards, but we need more.

Stewards play a vital role supporting our members in the workplace, and feeding their views and concerns back to the Branch Committee. They also play a vital role in our campaigns.

So, we need more stewards. We especially need stewards in the private care sector, where we have nearly 500 employers to cover.

Could this be you? If so, contact the branch and we will get you trained.

Concerned about job insecurity, inequality, pay and conditions, privatisation, pensions, harassment or safety issues?



FAREWELL NICOLA SUMNER

Farewell to Nicola Sumner, the Area Organiser UNISON loaned us last year.

An integral part of our successful campaign to save the older persons care homes and day centres, she has also arranged settlements with a value of £49,246.83 from bad employers, as well as helping two members keep their jobs.

Sadly for us, her talents have been spotted and she's off to work for Dan Jarvis MP>

Derbyshire UNISON wish her all the best.



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