

# UNISON 2026 AGM NEWSLETTER

## UNISON Northern Health Branch

### It's about You, Your Branch, Your Say and Your Vote

Our Branch AGM is the single most important meeting of the year. Every year UNISON requires its branch officers and stewards to stand for re-election. The AGM is your opportunity to have a say in how the branch is run and who will represent you in 2026

It is also a great opportunity to meet with other members and UNISON stewards and to find out how UNISON has been active on your behalf during the year. Some of this year's AGMs will take place online and in the workplace

If you would like to become more active in UNISON: Representing your colleagues or becoming involved in solidarity or welfare work, please contact your branch by contacting us directly through email at:

***[northernhealthunison@gmail.com](mailto:northernhealthunison@gmail.com)***



### Branch Awards 2025

This year we had our second "UNISON Northern Health Woman of the year" award. This was in memory of our dear friend and comrade **Marjorie Trimble**. Marjorie was one of the founding members of UNISON Northern Health Branch. Marjorie was a champion to our members throughout her career, standing up for our members rights. Marjorie was a Branch Secretary, TUS chairperson, senior member of the Women's Committee & Regional Committee, but most importantly made a significant contribution to the Peace Process in Northern Ireland. A remarkable woman whose legacy will live on through her branch and her Northern Health women's committee. Marjorie would be so proud of this award.

Our award went to Deniese McNally from Estates Department, Holywell. A heartfelt warming commendation from her colleagues.

In 2026, the branch is going to build on this award and have an awards night which is being planned for September 2026. In the run up to that event, we will be seeking nominations in categories in Nurse of the Year, Support Worker of the Year, Homecare Worker of the Year, Admin of the Year, Team of the Year etc... We will also have a special recognition award which will be woman of the year, in recognition of Marjorie.

Please watch noticeboards in your workplace and our Facebook page for further updates.

### Violence and Aggression Workstream

In May of this year the NHSCT set up this workstream to look at the incidences of violence and aggression within our in-patient Mental Health facility in Holywell hospital and the Ross Thompson Unit in Coleraine.

All wards, senior managers, health and safety, violence and aggression trainers in conjunction with trade union representation and other disciplines were tasked in looking at ways where they could reduce the incidences of violence and aggression within our in-patient facilities. There are a lot of initiatives which include promoting champions to lead within the ward and involving service users and staff cohesively working together. Providing debriefing and reflective practice following incidents so that all receive support.

This work is ongoing to continue to address this issue.

### Pay Update

Following announcements by the Health Minister on funding for 2025/26 Agenda for Change (AfC) pay, UNISON entered further discussions with the Department of Health. It was confirmed by the Department that it will proceed to put in place a consolidated 3.6% pay uplift for the AfC workforce, fully backdated to 1st April 2025. The Department has stated that this was to be paid to the workforce in February 2026. This will restore pay parity with the NHS workforce in England and vindicates the clear stand taken by UNISON members that the commitment to pay parity must be honoured.



**Not yet a member? JOIN UNISON TODAY!**

Call **02890270190** or go to **[www.unison-ni.org.uk/join](http://www.unison-ni.org.uk/join)**

# BECOME A UNISON REP



- Challenge workplace issues
- Make your voice heard
- Offer advice and support

For more info go to [www.unison-ni.org.uk/rep](http://www.unison-ni.org.uk/rep)

## AFC Successes – A Fantastic Year for UNISON Northern Health Members!

It's been an outstanding year for our Agenda for Change (AFC) work here at UNISON Northern Health. Thanks to the dedication and expertise of our AFC team within the branch, we've seen incredible results in job evaluation and banding outcomes across our Trust.

So far this year, 26 Job Descriptions (JDs) have been completed, with:  
12 successfully upgraded in banding – a 100% success rate on all outcomes so far!  
7 awaiting panel outcomes, and  
7 awaiting management meetings.

On top of that, there are 10 more groups of staff currently awaiting meetings with Trade Union (TU) representation – and we're confident those will bring even more success.

We're also proud to announce that, to date, UNISON Northern Health has secured an incredible £1.9 million in back pay through AFC work alone. This is a testament to the skill, persistence, and commitment of our team in ensuring members are recognised and rewarded fairly for the work they do.

## SKILL UP with UNISON College

With 700+ course topics for members each year, from in-person accredited learning to virtual CPD modules through the Skills Academy and Nursing Times CPD Zone, all fully funded for UNISON members.

We also offer learning grants including funded places on K102 Open University modules. Sessions can be booked by emailing [educationni@unison.co.uk](mailto:educationni@unison.co.uk) You can access our education grants, eLearning modules and application forms and pre-recorded lectures via <https://www.unison-ni.org.uk/edu>

## PHYSICAL AGM MEETING DATE

Outside Antrim Area Hospital Canteen,  
Monday 23rd March 2026

at:  
10.00 am

Come along and get your free breakfast bap and chat to our representatives!



## AGM MEETING DATES ONLINE ZOOM

Online AGM meeting:  
Monday 23rd March 2026 at:

10am - Physical  
1pm - Online  
6pm - Online



You can also join the online meeting zoom AGM, with the QR code.

Zoom Link:  
<https://shorturl.at/PGlxi>

## BRANCH CONTACT DETAILS

Email: [northernhealthunison@gmail.com](mailto:northernhealthunison@gmail.com)

Regional Organiser: Conor McCarthy 028 9027 0190  
[c.mccarthy@unison.co.uk](mailto:c.mccarthy@unison.co.uk)

Area Organiser: Noreen Robinson 028 9027 0190  
[n.robinson@unison.co.uk](mailto:n.robinson@unison.co.uk)

UNISON Direct - 0800 0857 857



Follow the UNISON Northern Health Branch Facebook page to see what the branch is up to, and follow our UNISON NORTHERN-IRELAND Page for regular Regional Updates!