

# Community & Voluntary Branch Update

**NEWSLETTER | Quarter 3 2024** 

### **UNISON Community & Voluntary Branch AGM** ~ 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 2025. 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.

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 (unisoncvbranchni@gmail.com).

#### In person AGMs:

- Belfast (Galway House), Tuesday 28th January (Food from 5.30pm. 6pm start.)
- Derry~Londonderry (Halliwell Trust), Tuesday 4th February (Food from 5.30pm. 6pm start.)

Please note in-person AGMs will also have the option to attend online. You can select your preference when you register.

#### **Online AGMs:**

Tuesday 11th February 1pm Tuesday 11th February 7pm

Prize draws at all AGMs. Watch our social media accounts for more details. Merchandise goodies will be available at in person AGMs.

Register for any of the AGMs here or using the QR Code.

## **Membership services**

Members experiencing financial and there emotional difficulties can contact UNISON VQU Welfare (There for You), which provides confidential advice and support services for members and their dependants.

https://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/services-support/there-for-you/

THOMPSONS

Receive free legal advice and support on non employment matters from Thompsons, our specialist employment solicitors

https://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/services-support/legal-services/

Quilter

Request free expert financial advice from Quilter Financial Advisers, UNISON's financial services partner

https://benefits.unison.org.uk/home/money/lighthouse-financialadvice/

## abbeyautolin

AbbeyAutoline offers discount for UNISON members.

https://www.abbeyautoline.co.uk/

# UNISON Campaigns for decent pay scales, terms & conditions

2023 was a devastating year for community and voluntary sector in terms of funding due to severe departmental cuts from DfC, DoH, DE and TEO. This was on top of the ending of European Social fund and the cliff edge announcement on 31 March of the successful UKSPF recipients. Most departments issued EQIA's which our sector responded to as well as UNISON and ICTU, however, nothing much changed, apart from the restoration of the DoH Core funding at 50% less than 2022/23 levels.

It was at this point that ICTU brought together 5 unions to tackle this crisis head on with the aim of securing descent salaries and terms & conditions whilst encouraging C&V workers to become unionised and Anne McVicker was invited to these meetings as an information conduit.

Meetings were held with NICVA and requests have been made to meet with DfC Minister Gordon Lyons and to make a presentation to the newly established All Party Group–APG for Community and Voluntary sector. Campaign aims & asks have been agreed as follows,

- Introduce NJC Salary pay scales and/or Living wage rates
- Fair terms & conditions of employment
- Equity with public sector workers

UNISON C&V NI Branch brought a motion to Regional Council on the 25th October 2024-Decent & Unionised conditions for C&V sector which was passed unanimously.

Work still continues on this important issue and we believe only when decent pay scales & terms & conditions have been secured will workers realise the many benefits of unionisation.



Check out the full list of over 500 UNISON College courses at this URL: <a href="https://bit.ly/2KzKJXA">bit.ly/2KzKJXA</a>

#### **Contact Your Branch**

Chairperson: Anne McVicker

Interim Joint Branch Secretaries: Karen Walker and Deirdre Quinn

You can contact your branch and branch officers on unisoncybranchni@gmail.com or find us on social media (X @UnisonCVNI, Facebook: Unison Community and Voluntary Branch NI #5118)

# UNISON Community & Voluntary Branch Celebrates the Year of the LGBT+ Worker



Priorities for the year included:

- Increase recruitment and representation of LGBT+ members in our union
- Challenging homophobia, transphobia and biphobia across all of our workplaces
- Negotiating trans equality policies across employers in the region
- Raising awareness around HIV and challenging the stigma
- Encouraging LGBT+ participation in the GLA, mayoral and general elections

UNISON Northern Ireland launched the Year of the LGBT+ Worker in Gallway House and members attended various Prides throughtout the region including the first ever Prides in Omagh and Portrush!

The Northern Ireland Region marked the Year of the LGBT+ Worker by sending a bumper delegation to the UNISON LGBT+ Conference in Edinburgh. Eight members of the Community & Voluntary Branch attended the conference, moving a motion on LGBT+ reproductive rights which was passed unanimously. Members also moved amendments on several other motions to ensure the inclusion of Northern Ireland. If you are an LGBT+ member of our branch you can also join the LGBT+ Self Organised Group. Contact the branch to find out more.

