

Northern Health Branch AGM Newsletter 2021

Thank You!

First and foremost we want to say a big thank you to all our members – not only have all of you given so much during the ongoing Covid Pandemic, worked tirelessly and sacrificed so much but you have done this willingly as Public Servants for the sake of your patients, clients and our families.

You have given more and more against a backdrop of ever-changing working conditions, ever changing PPE guidelines, social distancing regulations, working from home, additional and excessive hours, low pay and as services return – excessive workloads. You have been troubled by redeployments and we have been working with you to ensure you do not work outside your registration or are pressurised into working in areas you feel are unsafe for you.

Regional Pay Campaign

All 14 NHS trade unions have called for an early and significant pay increase and the publication of survey data showing strong backing from the public. A survey of NHS staff who belong to UNISON found four fifths (84%) said the £2,000 pay lift would make a 'substantial difference' to them.

Free School Meals 4 All

UNISON have established a Working Group comprised of reps from across health and education to take forward the development of a new campaign calling for universal free school meal provision for all children and young people. **The campaign's objectives are:**

- Seeking universal nutritious free school meals for all pupils to both reduce poverty and improve public health;
- To safeguard and promote the vital work of our members within schools catering. School meals services should be publicly provided;
- As a response to Covid-19 to build support for the implementation of a public health model across Government that is aimed at dealing with health and educational inequalities that have been exacerbated during the pandemic.

We have started a petition calling on the NI Executive to provide universal free school meals. Further actions will follow before the New Year. Link to the online petition is here: <http://chnng.it/ycDBDYHJ>

AGM Online Meeting Dates

Week Beginning 8th of March
Monday — Friday
11:30am | 6:30pm | 8:00pm |

Prizes: For those who register and attend;

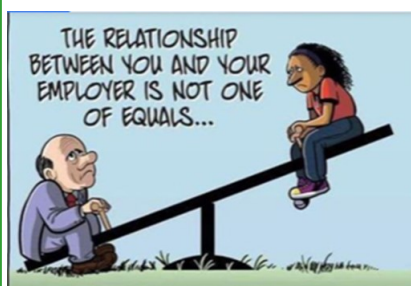
- * 1st Member to Attend — £50
- * 50th Member to Attend — £50
- * 100th Member to Attend — £50
- * 150th Member to Attend — £50
- * **£1000 Prize for the 246th Member to attend.**

- ⇒ Our AGM will be held via the **Zoom** online platform.
- ⇒ **Zoom** is free to download on tablet or smartphone, or can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/>.
- ⇒ You can join the AGM on Zoom in a number of ways:
- ⇒ 1. Click here <https://bit.ly/38hdYXj>
- ⇒ 2. Join via the Zoom app (free to download)
- ⇒ 3. Access the Zoom website - <https://zoom.us/>.

Join a Meeting

Meeting ID: 879 5017 1776
Passcode: AGM2021

We Want You!



As the largest branch in Northern Ireland we need to grow to support you, and we are seeking likeminded individuals who believe they could help their colleagues.



Are you kind, compassionate and fair-minded? If so we need you! Full training and all details can be explained by attending your AGM or calling one of the branch officers listed on this newsletter. You will receive extensive training, support and ongoing mentorship with a branch development officer.

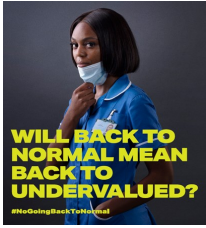
NOT YET A UNISON MEMBER? JOIN TODAY!

Call Membership on 028 9027 0190 or join online <https://join.unison.org.uk>

Our Priorities for 2021 are:

- Protect our NHS Services
- Secure a decent pay rise for all (leaving no-one behind)
- Ensure your safety, health, and well-being
- Give back to our branch members
- Increase our membership uptake of our Education Programme.
- As the Covid Pandemic continues we need to ensure our democratic process continues therefore we need to increase our Social Media and Virtual meetings engagement.

No Going Back to Normal!



UNISON has launched a new campaign 'No Going Back to Normal' and UNISON Northern Health Branch are supporting this campaign in a very strong way. We want to send a clear message that we must not return to undervaluing our public services and the people who provide them. The

Branch urges our members to join and work with us as we work to promote this campaign and ensure our members are listened to going forward.

Nightingale - Whiteabbey

Whiteabbey site has been selected as a Nightingale Hospital. This is to provide 100 step-down beds in light of COVID-19. This is a Regional Project which will be overseen by a Project Board, this is mainly made up of Directors, Assistant Directors and Department of Health Representatives from across Northern Ireland. The Regional Trade Union side leads have asked all decision making made by the board is shared with them. In addition, there will be 4 work streams. Regionally Trade Union side have placed Senior Representatives in each of these work streams.. As the project progresses we continue to monitor the workforce implications via one of the work streams.

Thank you once again to our brilliant members



Update Your Details

Check your membership status by checking your pay slip for deductions or your bank for direct debit. If this is not up to date, then you may not be a UNISON member. Please contact membership services on **028 9027 0190** to update your details.

Health and Safety

UNISON will strive to keep Health and Safety at the top of every agenda. UNISON hold the Joint Chair of the Trust Health and Safety Committee. If you are interested in becoming a Health and Safety or workplace rep, please contact a branch officer or steward. Please raise all your health and safety concerns with our local reps. We have worked tirelessly during the pandemic to protect you at work. We have had a major role ensuring the trust follow and provide safe work places. We were instrumental in getting PPE supply issues resolved as quickly as possible, we carried out hundreds of risk assessments, we issued guidance on hot desking, car sharing and homeworking in order to support you. Please join your branch committee as a health and safety rep.

Membership Services

Pensions

The branch will continue with the pension clinics provided in conjunction with Lighthouse financial services. Please watch our Facebook page for details and dates, or contact Lighthouse directly Gillian McGrath **07887788935** or email gillian.mcgrath@lighthousefa.co.uk

UNISON Welfare - 'There For You'

The Branch want to remind you to use this service which is free to all UNISON members and is there for you at times of difficulty and crisis. For full details please see UNISON's website www.unison.org.uk/get-help/

Legal Advice

Thompson's NI - our specialist employment solicitors. For free legal advice and support contact **0800 0857 857**.

UNISON College

UNISON offers a wide range of free courses for members and reps to support you in your professional, personal and community life. We also fund the Open University K102 module and support progression onto the OU nursing programme. OT students can join BAOT which gives you automatic membership of UNISON and access to all our services and education programme. Find out more at:

www.unison-ni.org.uk/education-and-training

Branch Referral Line

For any new enquiries contact the Northern Health Branch Referral Number 07825411218. Please leave your Name, Number and Issue in a voicemail if the call is not answered and our Admin Support will call you back to gather more details.

Branch Officers

Chairperson - *Stephanie Greenwood*
Joint Branch Secretary - *Lynn McGookin*
Joint Branch Secretary - *Jean Getty*
Joint Branch Secretary - *Fiona Kelly*
Joint Branch Secretary - *Nicholas Shaw*

Regional Staff

Temporary Regional Organiser - *Marianne Buick*
07748638243
Area Organiser - *Noreen Robinson* 07976217080