

UNISON
Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
4 July 2011

Present: L Hannon, V Suddes, D Tree, J Young, C Smith, R McGrath, J Horne, P Keenan, M Harrison, I Fraser, PJ Bell, E Lipscombe, L Grainger, M Wilkinson, V Powell, SM Herron, C McGuinness, M Symington, M Temperley, B Wilson, M Brown, M Haddon, J Liepins-Hall, R Fenton, D Gormley, J Nicholson, L Hardie, C McArdle, J Arnold, N Nicholson, J Yugire, L Newton, W Aitman, L Alderson, R Sheikh, A Hamilton, J Kennett, C Irwin, K Bell, H Hawthorn, S Hicks

In Attendance: K Loughlin

1. Apologies

L Parker, B Oliver, P Brown, J McShane, L Gormley, J Dunlop, E Miller, D Lambie, M Cunny, M Wright, E Wilson, J Flood, A Graham, E Whitaker, S Bond, C Ash, L Rogers, S Kipling, S Turnbull, D Muse, B Taylor, G Haggerston, P Satterthwaite, B Turnbull, M Cunny, L Jackson, M Dobson, S Hazel, R Wilson, J Bird, E Whitby, A Carson, C Mason, L Jackson, S Rounthwaite, C Hodgson, A Lamb, J Carden, A Hall

2. Strategic Workload Plan

(a) K Bell delivered a presentation giving an overview of UNISON workplan for the next year including the leads for each area. Key issues include: Schools; Health and Wellbeing; Political and Trade Union relationships and redundancies. More information on the Strategic Workplan can be found at

www.unison-newcastle.org.uk/previously.html#A110704

Action – Arrange Worklife Balance event in the autumn

(b) Pensions/Poverty

Joyce Mead, Branch Retired Members Secretary + National Committee, spoke of financial difficulties retiring on small pensions and how changes to the LG pension scheme would affect present employees. More information on pensions can be found at

www.unison-newcastle.org.uk/campaigns-pensions

3. PSA

Jess Khoshooee gave an overview on the work of the PSA and encouraged members and activists to attend meetings. More information can be found at

www.unison-newcastle.org.uk/npsa

Action – Publicise PSA to increase general engagement.

4. Single Status

169 appeals have been lodged. Red circles to be dealt with within 12 months.

5. Academies & Part Year Working

Nurseries cannot become academies; Diocese is strongly supporting Catholic schools to become academies; part-year pay to be pro rata.

Action – Follow up in autumn on status of academies in Newcastle

6. Workforce Development and Learning

Health and Wellbeing Event to be held on 19 July and Workplace Learning on 28 July; Organising Stewards Course begins 12 July.

Action – Re-send information on Health & Wellbeing event.

7. Feedback from National and Regional Committees

Update given on National Conference – 17 speakers from branch; good confidence building opportunity; collective credit to branch. Daily updates given on Northern website. **Agreed** – 3 delegates from branch to attend Disabled Members Conference in November.

Action – Inform members of contact details of Black Members Officer.

8. Directorate Reports

Adult services – Libraries briefing tomorrow; 3rd week of 16 week programme in Learning Disabilities; Mental Health workstreams - 2 year programme; cuts in Housing Advice Centre.

Children's Services – DJC on Wednesday; Jonny Arnold and Connor McArdle will work on Children's Services and Lynda Hardie will keep an overview of the directorate

Environment and Regeneration – School meals consultation begins next week.

Admin – Reps meeting 5th August.

9. Health and Safety – nothing to report.

10. Affiliations, Donations and Correspondence – Agreed

11. Minutes for Confirmation – Agreed

12. Any Other Business

(a) Southern Cross – Meetings to be held across the region.

(b) Welfare grant available for school uniforms more information can be found at www.unison-newcastle.org.uk/members-benefits

Action – Circulate by email and hard copy to members

(c) Amber Court – staff room will be inadequate for staff from Springfield Centre.

Action – C McArdle to contact S Hicks to discuss.

(d) Durham Miners Gala on Saturday 9th July.

(e) Discussed Housing Services – compulsory redundancies – not following HR procedures. Awaiting statement from NCC – will send out when received in branch office.

(f) There is no Branch Committee in August, but may arrange another meeting if required.

Next Branch Committee meeting – Monday 5th September 2011.