

UNISON - Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE - 7 September 2015 - AGENDA

Part 1 – Regular Business 3.00 – 4.00pm

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minutes for Confirmation**
 - Branch Committee 6 July - enclosed
 - Matters arising (not already on the agenda)
 - Health and Safety – no meeting
 - Branch Education – 17 July 2015
3. **Branch Membership**
4. **Financial Report – Andy Hall**
 - Affiliations, Donations and Correspondence
5. **Health & Safety – Jaci Carden**
6. **Workforce Development and Learning – Wendy Aitman**
 - a. **Bridges to learning – Jane Yugire**
7. **Directorate Reports**
 - **Wellbeing, Care and Learning**
 - Adults – Paul Gilroy
 - Children's – Lynda Hardie
 - **Resources – Paul Gilroy**
 - **Chief Executives – Paul Gilroy**
 - **Communities – Nicky Ramanandi**
 - **Investment and Development – Nicky Ramanandi**
 - **YHN – Derek Muse**
 - **Schools – Lori Ashbridge**
 - **Community & Voluntary Sector – Derek Muse / Ian Royal**
 - **Newcastle College – Steve Hazel**
8. **Branch Officer Reports**
 - **Equalities – Cath McGuinness**
 - **Women members – Liz Jackson**
 - **LGBT members – Louise Crosby**
 - **Disabled members – Angela Hamilton**
 - **Black members – Ulela Kaferawanthu**
 - **Young members – James Imhoof**
 - **Welfare – Jane Yugire / Andrea Ibbetson**
 - **International – Conor McArdle**

9. **National and Regional Committees and Conferences**

Part 2 – Specific Business 4.00 – 5.30pm

1. **General Secretary Elections – Consider Branch Nomination (dependant on receiving nomination requests)**
2. **General Update**
 - **Redundancy / Protection**
 - **IR Framework / Trade Union Bill**
 - **DOCAS**
 - **Facility Time**
 - **CVS Project**
 - **Care Services Review**
 - **Agile Working**

Part 3 – Additional Business 5.30 – 6.00pm

1. Any Other Business

(Chair to be notified in advance of meeting or at the start of the meeting)

Affiliations, donations and correspondence – September Branch Committee

Affiliations

Organisation	Fee	Recommendation
Justice for Colombia	£90.00	

Subscriptions

None		

Donation requests

Organisation	Request	Recommendation	Reason
Cuba Solidarity Campaign	Support Cuban Futures Conference – 3 October 2015	£ 150.00	

Correspondence received

Organisation	Event	Details	Action
Newcastle Foodbank	Thanks for £600 donation		
ACTSA	Thanks for £50 donation		

All requests for donations or funding should be received two weeks before Branch Committee. Requests received after this will be considered at the following meeting.

Funding criteria:

The following funding criteria is applied relating to the level of donations we make to strikes, appeals and so on:

1. UNISON Strike - £250
2. Non-UNISON strike - £150
3. Donation to an organisation which is a Branch or UNISON priority - £150 (or the amount requested if less)
4. Donation to an organisation which is not a priority but is deemed worthwhile - £50 or the amount requested if less)
5. Donation to emergency appeals, for example Haiti earthquake - £250 or another amount deemed reasonable by Branch Committee

Newcastle City Branch
BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
6 July 2015

PRESENT: L Hardie, J Imhoof, D Mead, J Horne, L Ashbridge, S Hicks, M Wilkinson, S Rounthwaite, A Clark, A Stewart, M Dobson (MD), I Royal, N Bone(NB), E Whitby(EW), J Yugire (JY), W Aitman (WA), T Carr, C McArdle (CM), N Ramanandi (NR-Chair), E Wilson, J Kennett, R Nelson, J Liepins-Hall, M Clark, P Barwick (PB), N Oliver, J Nicholson, J Horne, T Leddicat, L Kennedy, C McGuinness, L McGurk, T Rayne, G Smith, D Brown

In Attendance: K Loughlin, Regional Officer

APOLOGIES: T Cook, E Thorp, P Staines, A Carson, J Bird, S Hicks, A Hall, L Patterson

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair (NR) welcomed all to the meeting, apologies noted.

2. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

- NB noted that she had attended previous Branch Committee, **Minutes confirmed**

- Matters Arising

NB spoke of health and safety concerns regarding agile working; suggested bite sized H&S training would be useful for Stewards.

EW spoke of 'cross-covering' between stewards and H&S reps

LK (IT) stated there is health and safety information on LMS, such as safe use of display screen equipment.

PB (H&S Officer) asked that members who have questions come to him for advice.

Recap of agile working was given for those who hadn't attended previous Branch Committee meeting.

NR stated that Health and Safety concerns was high on the list of issues being reported back to management.

- **A break from scheduled agenda took place as Special Guests Matthew King and Michael Quinn from the Newcastle West End Food bank gave a short presentation**
Mr King gave a moving speech illustrating the deprivation in Newcastle and the need for food banks. He also spoke of the struggle to meet those needs. He stated there is still a misconception by many regarding food banks and reiterated that everyone who receives assistance is referred by an outside organisation. He also stated there were volunteering opportunities and to visit the website at www.newcastlewestend.foodbank.org.uk Mr Quinn distributed leaflets to the committee to aid the food bank. Mr King then accepted a £600 cheque from the branch as a donation.

The committee will visit this matter again during the Christmas season.

3. BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

- Report Tabled

NR gave a recruitment update; some discussion from committee regarding membership.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

- Tabled

Affiliations, Donations and Correspondence

A request has been received from an organisation in Swaziland; CM to investigate and report back. Other correspondence was noted.

5. HEALTH & SAFETY

- Tabled; MD commented on Wiseman Ndlovu's excellent work within his team. Other discussion regarding health & safety issues occurred during 'matters arising'.

6. SPECIAL BRANCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

CM recapped what was covered regarding redundancy payments and the proposed plan to pay the statutory minimum and the pay cap as well as the reduction in the paid protection period. It was pointed out that the proposed plan would be the worst of any local authority in our area. Discussion was exchanged by the committee.

7. CONFERENCE REPORT

LH and EW as delegation leaders both gave brief reports on Local and National Conference

8. 2016+ WHAT LIES AHEAD AND THE UNISON RESPONSE

No detail has been given on the £50m cuts; services are at a pinch-point. NR spoke on what we may expect next.

There was a twenty minute table exercise by the committee regarding these cuts. Each table spoke on three points. NR noted these. There was very good discussion and the ideas will be taken forward.

9. WORKFORCE, LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

Report tabled. WA spoke of future training sessions on Colleagues that are Victims of Domestic Violence/Abuse and the Reaccreditation training for stewards.

JY spoke of additional Lunch & Learn sessions sponsored by bridges to Learning

10. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES

Nothing to report.

11. DIRECTORATE REPORTS

WCL (Adults) – CM provided an update on the Care Services proposals/

WCL (Children's) – LH report on Children's Services DJC, Sure Start moving to Commissioning and Procurement with a change in name to reflect this.

Communities – NR reported on Agile Working and pay for staff within NCL. NCL stated they were not in the position to give a pay offer. After further discussions and a ballot of members NCL will review the position in September, which could include a retrospective offer. Members have opted to wait till the review.

12. BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS

International – CM advertised a book launch for Archie Sibeko he had organised through the regional international committee.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

EW mentioned a meeting for the Jeremy Corbyn campaign on 9th July.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 7 September 2015, 3pm, Newcastle Civic Centre

UNISON Newcastle City Branch, Branch Education Meeting 17th July 2015

MINUTES:

Attendees: Wendy Aitman (WA) Chair, Sue Richardson (SR), Evan Peck (EP), Lori Ashbridge (LA) Jane Yugire (JY) (Minutes)

1. Previous Minutes - Read and agreed, Apologies given

Presentation: WA presented Evan Peck with Adult Learners Week (ALW) Certificate for being nominated for ALW award.

Matters arising

WA gave an update on the six books challenge celebration and certificate presentation event. The event was big success and the reading challenge generated a lot of interest in reading. It is possible the challenge will continue every year due to the increased interest.

2. Bridges to Learning update (JY)

JY gave an update of the courses both branch organised as well as the regional CPD courses. We have been given additional Free Open University Lunch and Learn taster session. Three topics were organised with one dedicated to Newcastle Bridges School and two to the general membership. 2015 School support staff conference will take place on 20th October 2015, full details and how to book is available on the website at www.bridgestolearning.org.uk.

3. Branch Education Update -Learning at Work Week presented by (WA)

The Regional education Development day took place on 10 July 2015, Wendy Aitman and Lori Ashbridge attended from the branch. Thompson Solicitors gave a presentation on changes to the employment tribunal and a general overview of their services to Unison members. In addition, Anne Hansen, Bridges to learning project director gave a brief presentation on the project. Regional education team will be involved with regional women network training. There will also be a regional Dementia Awareness training in September. WA talked about the National Learning Grants of £300 available to Personal Care Assistants and Teaching Assistants, ULR were asked to encourage members to apply before the deadline.

4. School and Learning (LA)

LA has been very busy organising and supporting schools with case representations and learning. Several courses have been organised and delivered to different schools across the city. LA continues to get more schools involved with UNISON through learning and on a personal note, LA has now completed PTTLs training and hope to be able to teach in future.

5. Mentoring and other courses (WA)

Anyone interested in Mentoring Training to contact Wendy Aitman, there is a possibility of tailoring a Mentoring training to suit learners needs.

Domestic Violence Training-there will be a Domestic Violence Training for Reps on 25th September 2015 and Dyslexia Awareness training for reps coming soon.

Date of Next Meeting 16/9/2015