

## **Branch Committee Report - Wellbeing Care & Learning – Children’s 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

### **Lock v British Gas Case**

Further to previous information presented in Outlines, the Council have completed analysis of worker groups who would be entitled to payment for a reduction in pay when they take leave as outlined in this case. UNISON is waiting for the information to be shared before contacting affected staff. UNISON submitted a collective grievance on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, so we expect back dating of any claim to then.

**Education Services** – expectation that details regarding the review of this service will go out to staff in September at this point we have no details.

We shared concerns about timescales and clarity within the regular meeting with the Director Ewan Weir.

**Naming of Social workers in family Court Judgements** – we have calendared meetings twice with the Assistant Director Karen Simmons and both have been cancelled at short notice. We will request that a further meeting is scheduled and that this does take place.

### **UNISON campaign regarding HCPC increases**

#### **UNISON refers HCPC fee hike concerns to the Professional Standards Authority**

**Summary:** UNISON’s concerted campaign against the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) 12.5% fee hike has succeeded in putting HCPC’s unacceptable consultation processes under the spotlight, but the fee increase is still set to go ahead from 1st August. UNISON has now referred the matter to the Professional Standards Authority.

**In full:** UNISON has mounted a concerted campaign against the decision by HCPC to press ahead with its 12.5% registration fee hike. We have generated a considerable backlash against the proposals and subjected HCPC’s processes to far greater scrutiny than it would have hoped. But the lack of accountability and checks and balances in the current system mean HCPC has succeeded in getting this increase through the Scottish and Westminster parliaments, and it will take effect from 1 August.

The attached briefing summarises the key features of our campaign so far and next steps in referring the matter to the Professional Standards Authority, with a request that it puts in place a system of oversight and audit to stop regulators hiking registration fees at will.

**Sure Start** – Labour Friends of Sure Start have produced a booklet ‘ Sure Start, What future’ You can join the debate at [www.labour Surestart.com](http://www.labour Surestart.com)  
[@LabourSureStart](https://twitter.com/LabourSureStart) [#SureStartWhatFuture](https://twitter.com/SureStartWhatFuture).

Ben Thomas National Officer for Education and Children’s Services at UNISON has written about the scale of cuts in Sure Start Centres in 2015. Listing Councils that have closed centres throughout the Country.

He states that the picture of cuts and closures across all types of Authority demonstrates that a systematic reduction in the number of centres and the range of services available to children and families.

He further states that UNISON believes that there needs to be a forensic review of the impact of cuts on centres and services. In particular the impact on delivery of a ‘hub and spoke’ model of

centres and whether this can match the aspiration of high quality services for children and families at the heart of every community.

There is a fear that the cuts will mean much of the progress made through the early investment in Sure Start being lost as key staff are lost, along with their skills and experience.

UNISON believe that a renewed commitment to Sure Start should be a key part of the opposition and that people need to be reminded of the original vision of Sure Start and why the ideas that inspired the vision still make sense.

**Next Shop Stewards Meeting Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September @ 4.30 – 6.00pm.**

DJC dates as follows –

14<sup>th</sup> October 2015

20<sup>th</sup> January 2016

20<sup>th</sup> April 2016

20<sup>th</sup> July 2016

11.30 – 12.00 pre meet 12.00 – 13.00pm main meeting Bewick Dobson Room, Civic Centre.

**Lynda Hardie Deputy Branch Secretary**