



Photo of demonstration outside harrow civic centre

Organize!

Dear Members

Harrow Unison LG Branch is at present experiencing difficulties with engagement and consultation with the London Borough of Harrow. It has been an extremely long period since our last meeting with the incumbent CEO Michael Lockwood and other senior officers of the Authority who seem to have discarded a helpful and productive arrangement to meet every 6 weeks.

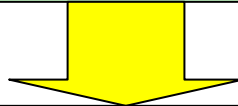
It is with total regret that this branch has been forced to engage the help of ACAS and the regional union to try and resolve the current status quo and address many other issues that have festered for too long. This meeting is scheduled for the 3rd June 2011 in central London. Hopefully this will reignite the good industrial relationship we once enjoyed with Harrow Council. Be rest assured, this Branch will not compromise the security of our membership in these discussions but we look forward to the removal of the obstacles we are now experiencing which affect each and every one of you.

Finally we would like to thank the membership of Harrow UNISON for their patience in such a critical and financially challenging time. As you will also be aware we are currently challenging the ridiculous pension reforms suggested by Lord Hutton. Our pension rights are in fact a contract which every local authority worker agreed to when agreeing the terms of the scheme. This mirrors the Bankers stance that their bonuses are a contractual right, which seem to have been duly accepted by this non productive Coalition Government.

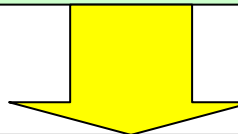
Harrow Unison LG Branch

NEED UNISON HELP AT WORK

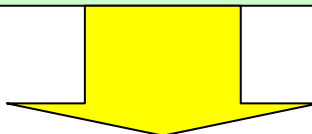
STEP ONE
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL REP



STEP TWO
IF NO WORKPLACE REP, CONTACT BRANCH ON **020 8424 1795** TO BOOK APPOINTMENT WITH AVAILABLE REPRESENTATIVE



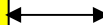
STEP THREE
BRANCH CONTACT'S WORKPLACE REP'S TO ASSIGN CASE. BRANCH ADVICE/SUPPORT AVAILABLE



STEP FOUR
IF NO REP AVAILABLE, BRANCH OFFICERS/CONVENORS WILL ASSIST IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPOINTMENTS PROCEDURE

APPOINTMENTS PROCEDURE

- 30-60 min consultation meeting to discuss the case
- 30 min pre-meet before any formal meeting
- Updates to be given by telephone/email where possible
- Look at each case to see if there are collective issues linked to wider cuts, bullying, stress etc



HARROW UNISON REJECTED THE ACADEMY CONVERSION FOR HARROW SCHOOLS

At the AGM, the vote to convert is in May and we urge every body involved to vote **NO**

THE MOTION

This AGM:

(1) Places on record its formal rejection of academies in Harrow's secondary schools and its recommendation that all school should remain within the existing local authority family of schools.

(2) Instructs the Branch Executive Committee to write to all affected school governors and head teachers asking them not to vote for academy conversion, sending them a copy of this motion and a covering letter stating this union's position and reminding them of the risky and unknown implications academy conversion will bring.

(3) Requires the Branch to send a copy of this motion to all affected school members reminding them of our collective position and the support available in whatever action they agree necessary should academy conversion come about.

(3) Formally request that the Local Authority (Harrow Council) endorse the content of this motion by requesting each Councillor's signature in the form of a joint letter calling on schools to reject academy status and stay within the local authority family of schools. This has been used in Lewisham in a similar campaign to prevent an academy conversion taking place.



PROTECT OUR PENSIONS

UNISON is stepping up its campaign to protect our pensions as we face new threats from the government's budget cuts.

The Tory-led government wants to make major changes to our public pensions schemes, which are likely to leave us working longer and paying more, while getting less.

They have already made changes:

A 3% increase in our contributions - equal to paying 50% more for most people - starting in 2012 moving the inflation rate measure from the retail price index to the consumer price index, which will mean smaller annual pension rises.

These changes will mean more public service workers - most of them women - facing retirement in poverty and dependent on benefits. Many will opt out of the schemes altogether because they cannot afford the increased contributions.

That's why it's crucial we prepare now. This means building our strength to defend our pensions from branch level and ensuring all our members understand the impact of changes to the schemes.



FREE TUC courses at the Unison Branch IT for beginners (June – August)

Central Depot, Forward Drive

IT Beginners Course

How Operate a computer safely
Set up and use a simple file structure
Understand the components of a PC
Access information on the internet
Send and receive emails
Understand internet safety and security issues
Edit text and integrate text and graphics from various sources
Create a multi slide presentation on an agreed topic

Dates

10 Wednesdays from
1st June 2011
6.00pm to 8.00pm
&
10 Thursdays from
2nd June 2011
6.00pm to 8.00pm

****Homework will be set each week**

Please note spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.
To register please call the branch for an application form.



To Play the monthly prize draw go to
www.unison.org.uk/octopus



For bookings to UNISON Croyde Bay go to
www.croydeunison.co.uk

The **UNISON** Office is Staffed by:-

Office administrator: Varsha Patel (Full time)
Admin assistant: Teresa Stanley (Part time)

Please remember to contact your workplace rep: in the first instance and let them deal with any issues at the grass roots level.

Contact Unison via:

**Unison Office
Central Depot
Forward Drive
Harrow, HA3 8NT
Telephone: 020 8424 1795**

OR

Via E-mail: info@harrow-unison.org.uk

This news letter was produced and edited by Charlie Sumner with contributions from UNISON members.

Printed &Published by Harrow UNISON LG Branch, the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Harrow UNISON LG Branch Executive Committee.