

**October  
2019**

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## YOU are our Local Service Champions!!!

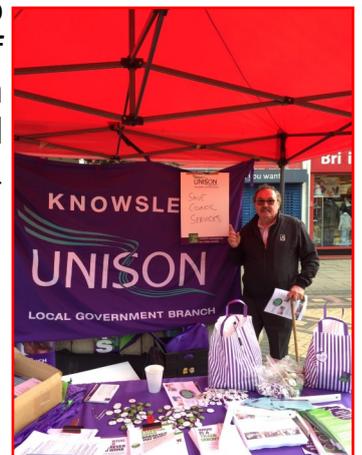


This month your Branch Officers & Stewards teamed up with Knowsley Labour Group to send a message to the public in Knowsley of how the work you do is vital and makes **YOU** our **PUBLIC SERVICE CHAMPIONS!** As well as highlighting this work through our usual methods we also hosted a stall in Huyton Village.



We highlighted the work you do everyday to keep our communities going, even in the face of the savage Tory cuts we have faced. This event has been made all the more important with the upcoming General Election and we urge all of our members to speak to family & friends about why they too should

**Vote for Public Services!**



ARE YOU  
REGISTERED  
TO VOTE?



## RECRUIT A FRIEND AND RECEIVE £10



*UNISON is once again focusing a whole month on growing our Union, (it's why we are the biggest & strongest Union) so for the whole month of November if any member recruits a friend (excluding our officers and stewards) simply place your name and contact number on their form and give it to your rep to receive £10!*

# CHRISTMAS WORKING ARRANGEMENTS



We have had a number of members write to us concerned that UNISON had “agreed” for the council to be open on Christmas Eve. This is simply not the case although I understand how this could have been interpreted as such following “Mike’s Blog”. UNISON did in fact suggest that Christmas Eve be used as a concessionary day. However, this was refused by management.

Therefore, UNISON ensured that our members terms and conditions remained in tact and that those wishing to work during the close down period could do so. We negotiated that incurred additional expenses would be paid if staff had to move workplaces for the Xmas period and that **leave requests for Xmas leave would be looked upon favourably.**

## Speaking Up For Retired Members

UNISON’s Retired Members Conference met in Southport on the first two days of October, and this Branch was represented by Retired Members Officer Roger Bannister, and Retired Members Committee members Valerie Beach and Margie Hill. Knowsley Branch had two items on the Conference Agenda, one resolution on *Defending living standards of older people*, featuring proposed attacks on older peoples’ living standards, such as scrapping the *Triple Lock* pension increase formula, abolishing free TV licences for over 75 year olds, delaying free bus passes for five years, taxing the Winter Fuel Allowance and imposing National Insurance contributions on the State Retirement Pension. This motion was composited with a similar one from the Wolverhampton Branch, and was moved at Conference by Roger. After a lively debate, the motion was carried unanimously. Our second Agenda item was an amendment to a motion from the National Retired Members Committee on *The Effect on Older People of Declining Public Transport*, effectively calling for public transport to be brought back into the public sector of the economy. Our amendment, moved at Conference by Roger, was supported by the National Committee, and was unanimously supported by Conference as a whole.



The Conference had a lively feel to it, reflecting the growing confidence of retired people to resist the attacks on their living standards being pushed by the Tory government, with our Branch playing a full role in this process.

### Diary Dates

The next meeting of the Retired Members Committee will be on 14 January 2020, at 12.30 pm, in the Branch Office.

Advanced Notice – The Annual Meeting of the Retired Members Section, open to all Retired members, will be on 18 February 2010, at 12.30 pm. (Venue to be announced).

### KNOWSLEY YOUTH MUTUAL

Following the decision to re-launch Knowsley Youth Mutual next year, UNISON are concerned of the direction towards a two tier workforce particularly around pay.

Therefore, we urge all of our KYM members to attend a meeting with the Branch Secretary on:

**Friday 15th November  
1.00pm,  
UNISON Office, Stretton Way,  
L36 6JF**

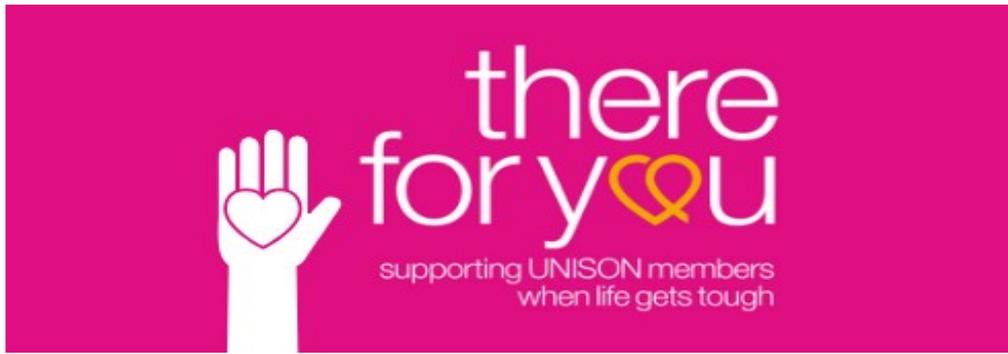
### Collective Bargaining Updates

Following UNISON’s request Knowsley is about to introduce a new **policy for carers** however we have not been able to agree due to not securing additional carers leave. We will now take this to the corporate JCC and feedback to you the outcome.

The **menopause policy** is close to agreement for which we hope to be in place by the end of the year.

UNISON has also asked for the introduction of a **policy for victims of domestic abuse** and also a review of the **Pay Protection policy** so as to include hours and loss of enhancements. Finally, we have asked for an extension of minimum consultation period for service reviews.

**In these uncertain times, There for You's work is**



**Many members who need our help struggle to provide for their family and pay for basic items. For others, the situation is much worse. They are constantly worried about how they will pay their rent, mortgage or debts**

UNISON There for You, is our national charity, supporting members in times of need. We offer a unique confidential advice and support service just for UNISON Members and their dependants. Whether its just a chat and a listening ear, advice or more concrete help your seeking we may be able to help. At a glance the charity offers financial assistance, debt advise, wellbeing breaks, support and sign posting information to other partners where required. They can be contacted direct on 020 7121 5620. As Branch Welfare Officer I am contactable to offer face to face support, assisting with completing the grant application or just being the voice at the end of the phone.

The charity also runs two small grant programs, for School Uniform grant (June/July) and a Winter Fuel program, both grants are aimed at members with a family income of £18000 of less. Last year we awarded grants just short of £460,000 to support our members.

The service is supported by a professional and dedicated team based at UNISON Centre in London. They can be contacted direct on 020 7121 5620. As branch welfare officer I am contactable to offer face to face support, assisting with completing the grant application or just being the voice at the end of the phone 07736 550472.

The charity is funded by fundraising & donations from Branches, members and Regional Welfare Committees **and more recently from the UNISON Lottery, please consider joining. Further information is available on the There for You pages of the UNISON Website.**

- £104 **would pay for a year's prescription charges**
  - £150 **could help pay towards school uniforms for three children**
  - £150 **would put food on the table for someone in need of emergency help**
  - £200 **would provide travel to hospital appointments for someone who regularly visits**
  - £250 **would buy essential household items, such as a washing machine, for someone who is disabled**
  - £800 **would help with moving costs or essential household items after someone has lost their home or in the case of domestic abuse.**
- £1,500 **could pay towards funeral costs meaning someone isn't forced into debt to pay for the funeral of a loved one.**

***Your UNISON Reps are 'there for you' too.***

Please remember that if you receive a letter from your manager inviting you to any meeting, stating **you are entitled to a Union Rep, you should ensure you have one.** This is particularly important with Sickness Absence procedures as your rep can often intervene at the earlier stages which may prevent you moving further along in any procedures.

## Stewards Corner



## Life Long Learning Officer Louise Dodd



My name is Louise Dodd and I'm the Lifelong Learning Co-ordinator.

I have been in local Government for almost 30years. The first few years were within Bristol City Council until I transferred to Knowsley Council.

I have had a few different roles before moving into Fleet Services as an Operational Technical Support Assistant.

In my role as the Lifelong Learning Co-ordinator I hope to motivate and encourage staff to take advantage of the opportunities in order to enable them to improve their job opportunities and roles.

**Finally we protested and marched with thousands outside Tory Party Conference and told them.....**

# TORIES OUT!



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