

## Why Mental Health social workers are on strike



Barnet UNISON is supporting our members in adult social work mental health teams taking strike action for **pay equality** with Barnet's Family Services Social Workers.

Social workers in adult mental health social work teams and Approved Mental Health Professionals are working hard to provide residents of Barnet with mental ill-health support through assessing eligible care needs, carrying out safeguarding enquiries and **Mental Health Act assessments**. Too often residents in Barnet wait far too long to receive support with some people waiting more than 10 months to be allocated a social worker for a needs assessment. Over the last 18 months the service has been **reliant on newly qualified social workers and students** as most of the **experienced staff have gradually left for better paid roles** in other local authorities or health services.

# FAIR PAY FOR ALL

In the last 12 months at least **13 out of a workforce of around 25 locum and permanent staff** have left Barnet across the two social work teams and AMHP service. For months Barnet management denied there was even a retention problem.

**Stress and lack of resources are significant contributors to the high turnover** of staff in mental health social work with workers saying they are “exhausted” and “very stressed.”

In Barnet Family Service recruitment and retention challenges are in part tackled through the application of a recruitment and retention policy in which social workers receive between a **15% and 25% uplift in their pay as a recruitment and retention payment.**

We are simply asking for the **same policy to be applied** to social workers in the adult mental health teams. The services adult mental health social workers provide and the skills they hold are equal to those of our social work colleagues in Family Services and in other adult social work teams.

Please send solidarity messages to [contactus@barnetunison.org.uk](mailto:contactus@barnetunison.org.uk) and donate to our strike fund.



**Please sign our petition by using the QR code**

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