

Mental Health Social Workers Take Strike Action



Barnet UNISON Mental Health Social Workers have now taken 3 days of strike action. Next week they will be on strike for 3 days. **What better way to commemorate World Mental Health Day, Tuesday 10th October, than to show solidarity with the strikers!** What better way to fight for a World with better Mental Health than to be on strike fighting for those very services.

The social workers have started speaking at other events to other groups and trade unionists and are inspiring everyone who hears them. The social workers will be deciding their next round of action next week.

They are simply asking for the Recruitment and Retention policy which has been applied to Family Services social workers and HGV drivers to be applied to them. Social workers and OTs in the rest of Adults Services are also considering their position as they too found the offer of a £1,000 payment this year and next to be insufficient to attract and retain staff.

What you can do:

1. Stop by the picket line and show your support [Join our Mental Health social workers Picket line. – Barnet UNISON](#)
2. Send this email to Barnet Council CEO (link)
3. Donate to our strike fund (details)
4. Send a message of solidarity to be read out on the picket line: contactus@barnetunison.org.uk
5. Take a photo or video of you and/ or your colleagues with a message of support and send to contactus@barnetunison.org.uk

6. Do a collection for donations in your team to be sent to our strike fund:

Account Name: Barnet UNISON Industrial Action Fund
Account Number: 20039336 Sort Code: 608301

Barnet UNISON meeting for Adults Social Workers and Ots

Wednesday 11th October
12.30pm
TEAMS

At the last meeting we heard from Brighton UNISON Branch Secretaries who informed us that Brighton Adult Social Services has completed a successful strike ballot over the question of Recruitment and Retention payments and will be taking industrial action across the whole of Adults Social Workers and OTs. Their members are also not happy that Family Services workers get the payments, and they don't, even though there are plenty of recruitment and retention challenges in Adults Services.

We agreed that Barnet UNISON will raise the issue at the Adults JNCC and if it cannot be resolved there then it will be raised directly with the CEO John Hooton. If it cannot be resolved there then Barnet UNISON will declare a formal dispute and we will ballot you officially for strike action.

Camden UNISON Gives Thanks to Barnet UNISON

Dear John and Helen,

We just want to send a big thank you to Barnet Branch on behalf of our traffic warden members. After 59 days of indefinite strike action, we're really pleased to say that they had a huge win! As a result of their action, they have got a pay rise this year of £5k – 18.1% - because their hourly rate has gone up to £15 (backdated to 1 April 2023). They have also won £15.90 next year, and £16.50 or RPI, whichever is the highest the year after. That will be the last year of the contract with private company NSL and we are preparing our campaign for them to come back in house at that point.

It was a bold step for our members to go straight in with indefinite action, but they knew that was the way to have a real impact. They stayed solid, and in fact the number of strikers grew, and a large part of them feeling able to do that was the solidarity they received from branches like yours. They knew that a

message and donation meant that other trade unionists had heard about their strike and supported their action.

So they really wanted us to contact you and let you know the result. They also want to send out a message that if they can win, so can others! In fact at the mass meeting on their last strike day, they recorded solidarity messages to other workers taking strike action in Barnet UNISON, Kirklees UNISON and Brighton UCU.

Thanks again for your generous donation, and solidarity from our winning strikers to your branch.

Liz Wheatley (Branch Secretary)
Jacqui Wallace (Branch Chair)
Joe Acheampong - steward
Isaac Adetobiojomo - steward
Duncan Betts - steward
Stella Costa - steward
Kamal Husen - steward
Babatunde Isiaka - steward
Faruk Tandel - steward
Emmanuel Urhiofe – steward

Liz Wheatley
Branch Secretary Camden UNISON

**SAT 21 OCT: RESISTING THE RISE OF RACISM AND FASCISM –
NATIONAL ORGANISING CONFERENCE**

STAND UP TO RACISM NATIONAL ORGANISING CONFERENCE

RESISTING THE RISE OF RACISM AND FASCISM

**Saturday
21 October, 11am
Hamilton House,
London WC1H 9BD
(and online)**

Speakers include:

- Neville Lawrence** father of Stephen Lawrence
- Colin McFarlane** actor & activist
- Daniel Kebede** NEU general secretary
- Shaka Hislop** Show Racism The Red Card
- Mark Serwotka** PCS general secretary
- Kim Johnson** MP
- Mick Whelan** ASLEF general secretary
- Cas Mudde** author, *The Far Right Today*
- Sarah Woolley** BFAWU general secretary
- Riz Hussein** TUC Race Equality officer
- Sabby Dhatu & Weyman Bennett** Stand Up To Racism co-convenors

HOSTED BY STAND UP TO RACISM
SUPPORTED BY THE TUC



If you are interested in going to this conference, please let the branch know. With members of the Conservative Party competing with one another as to who can be quickest and go deepest into the cesspit of reaction this event is important for developing arguments and campaigns against racism and the persecution of refugees.

Birmingham Council Declares Bankruptcy – What Now and Who’s Next?

Trade unions and residents of Birmingham have demonstrated outside the Town Hall at the removal of democracy after Central Government moved in to run the Council. Local Government has seen an absolute onslaught against its finances since 2010. The years prior to this were not great either. Redundancies rang out like an annual event.

Enough is Enough! Services cannot plausibly be cut any further without risks to life and limb. Most of us are in services which are drowning in workloads and know however hard we work we will never come close to satisfying the needs of our communities. You will be seeing headlines saying how many other Councils are in a similar position to Birmingham.

Can the Government really run all Councils? Probably not. There is an opportunity to expose the economic position of Councils as not being the result of inept, shambolic, reckless spenders (some are but more so than this Government has been?) but the result and reality of vicious cuts by

the Government intent on fleecing the public services to feather the nests
of fat cat corporations and the super-rich.

If Birmingham Council workers call a national demonstration, we will do
our best to answer that call.

Use this link to identify the budget issues in Barnet and where you live:

[Click Here](#)



[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Website](#) [Email](#)

Copyright © 2023 Barnet UNISON, All rights reserved.

You have received this e-mail because you are a member of Barnet UNISON or
because you have subscribed at our website.

Our mailing address is:

Barnet UNISON, Room 1.9, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale
London NW9 4EW

To unsubscribe please email your full name and 'unsubscribe to eNews'
to contactus@barnetunison.org.uk