

8th March – International Working Women’s Day!



Barnet UNISON gives solidarity greetings to our women care workers in the Enablement Service facing the sack as they meet on this day with the Council Leader.

We give solidarity greetings to our Mental Health social worker members too and to all our care and support worker members who have just voted to fight for better pay. These are 3 campaigns in the branch where overwhelmingly women are fighting back.

See articles below covering cuts in Council budgets and the Budget itself.

[Click here for further reading](#)

Mental Health Social Workers and Why We Support These Women!



Overwhelmingly our members on strike in the Mental Health Service are women. We will give a further update next week but talks at ACAS this week broke down with management offering nothing different to what they have been saying for the last year....With one exception...It's definitely not about the money!

Barnet UNISON is none the wiser as to why senior managers are so intransigent in the face of this strike. We call on all our members to show solidarity. One day this could be you too!

UNISON will shortly be notifying the employer of the next strike dates which are:

15th – 26th April
13th May – 1st June
17th June – 17th July

Demonstrate 16 & 17 March: #StopRacism #StopTheHate



[Click here for further reading](#)

UNISON opinion: Why councils are on the brink – and how they can be pulled back

Everyone knows why councils are on the brink of bankruptcy – a massive 41% cut in government funding over a decade, while demand for services has grown. But there is an alternative for a sustainable future for the local services we all rely on



By UNISON's head of local government Mike Short

Local government is in the news. But not for the right reasons.

The *Daily Mail* asks “Is your council about to go bust?”, the *Mirror* tells us that every single local authority, bar one, is experiencing cuts to funding and the *Guardian* reports that councils are resorting to crowdfunding to maintain their schools.

We hear about the youth clubs that have closed and the Christmas lights that won't be switched on. Each day there's news that another council can't balance the books, more services are being cut or closed down and jobs are on the line.

And every single cut and closure has an impact.

[Click here for further reading](#)

Chancellor is living in a fantasy world

The NHS, councils, care and other public services need help and tax cuts won't deliver it

Commenting on the spring budget today (Wednesday), UNISON general secretary Christina McAnea said:

“This is the stuff of fantasy. The public won't be fooled. Taxes overall remain at a record high and the promised growth is nowhere to be seen, despite what the chancellor would have everyone believe.

“There's no budget giveaway for the lowest paid. They'll be substantially worse off. And persistently punching public services in the face helps no one.

“Families might be struggling, but people would rather have functioning local services than a few possible extra pounds in their pockets.

“Public services are the fabric keeping communities together. No one wants to go weeks to see a GP, spend hours waiting in over-crowded A&E departments or languish on growing NHS waiting lists.

“People want care packages when they need support, school buildings that won't fall apart and for the police to keep them safe. That's no longer possible under the Conservatives.

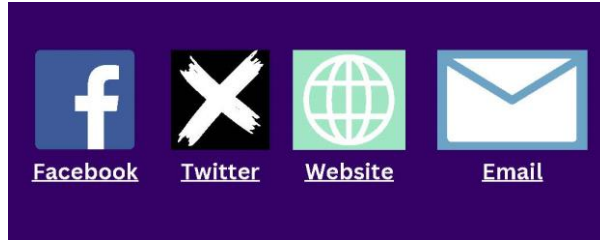
“Public services can barely cope as it is. Proper investment is what's needed, not another dose of callous austerity or telling nurses, teaching assistants and care staff to work harder.

“Never mind going back to square one, the chancellor's determined to take the country back to the days of Charles Dickens.

“But let's face it, this government ran out of ideas long ago. Ministers have misread the public mood and will pay for it at the ballot box.

“Rishi Sunak and his failing ministers are living on borrowed time. This lot should finally put the country first and call an election.”

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

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