

## Sickness Blues -call UNISON

At some stage in life we all get ill. Sometimes we need to have operations. It can be easy to find yourself under the sickness absence procedures.

Although UNISON successfully campaigned to restore Sandwell Council's policy of management discretion before commencing stage 1 of the sickness absence procedures, many members are not contacting us for representation.

Stage 1 is a formal meeting and you are entitled to take a trade union representative with you. UNISON makes a difference and we urge all members being called to a stage 1 sickness meeting to contact us for representation. UNISON will be your friend and provide you with experienced advice and guidance. So, please call us on 0121 569 5996 should you need to.

## UNISON Launches Campaign to Celebrate Local Government Workers

UNISON will launch a local services champions day on 17 October. A film illustrating local government's importance to daily life can be seen here.

<https://www.unison.org.uk/news/2019/06/unison-launches-campaign-celebrate-local-government-workers/>

Council services continue to be cut. Years of austerity have taken their toll, reducing staff numbers and heaping more pressure on those who remain. According to [Local Government Association](#) estimates, councils across England and Wales need an extra £5.8 billion this year to avoid further closures of services.

The local services champions campaign aims to encourage politicians, the media and the public to celebrate their local services and the people who deliver them. By doing so UNISON hopes to change the conversation around local government and help prevent council jobs and services being seen as an easy target for cuts and savings.

If you want to nominate some champions from Sandwell please email [sandwellunison@btconnect.com](mailto:sandwellunison@btconnect.com)

## UNISON's Bloomin' May

From Birmingham to Bangor, Doncaster to Sandwell, UNISON members in May won a number of disputes.

On 1 May CSA's in the Local Offices across Sandwell celebrated securing a pay rise for themselves in a dispute over grading.

After 2 days of strike action, catering workers at Doncaster and Bassetlow Teaching Hospitals won the same pay rise from their employer as agreed in the NHS.

Support staff in Bangor were also celebrating after a UNISON organised campaign convinced management to halt plans to downgrade their pensions.

Cleaners at Princes Alexandra Hospital in Harlow stopped the privatisation of their jobs after 99% of UNISON members voted for action on a 84% turnout.

After 18 months of struggle, Home Carers in Birmingham won their dispute after taking 82 days of strike action. Finally beating Birmingham Council into submission, forcing them to drop all their plans to cut hours and the pay of low paid workers.



UNISON also grew by over 3,000 members during May, securing it as the biggest trade union in Britain – with 1.3million members. Join Sandwell's biggest trade union online <https://join.unison.org.uk/>