

2020 NJC Pay Award Offer

The last Phoenix questioned whether the 2% offer to support staff in schools and council workers – plus other workers on NJC terms, was enough given the risks frontline workers continue to make to keep vital public services running.

The employers have now, in their words, made a final offer of 2.75% on all pay points. Plus, an extra day's leave, but only for those on minimum leave entitlement.

UNISON's national committee met and whilst the employers have said this is their final offer, key matters remain unresolved. As part of their offer, the employers said they would approach central government for more money for local government pay 2020-21. The unions have asked for more detail on what the employers' plan to ask for, and that this is on a joint employer/union basis.

Until we know central government's response to the approach, UNISON is not yet in a position to consult members for your views on the pay offer. Until we know what extra money will be available, we have not exhausted the negotiation process.

As key workers, local government and school staff are in the forefront of the battle against COVID-19. We deserve proper recognition and reward. UNISON will continue to campaign hard and urge the government to provide increased funding to allow local government to give all workers a decent pay rise. Look out for consultation in the future. For now, check out what 2.75% would mean for each pay point. Check out www.sandwellunison.co.uk

Children's Trust Adopts Parental Bereavement Policy

After UNISON raised this with Sandwell Children's Trust – it is pleasing to note that the Trust has agreed to implement a policy better than the statutory minimum. Staff will be entitled to 2 weeks full pay for any child – regardless of age. (The statutory minimum is for under 18-year olds).

For the latest news and guidance see
www.sandwellunison.co.uk

www.unison.org.uk

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Sandwell's biggest trade union

Council to Bail Out Sandwell Leisure Trust?

Leisure Centres were among the first things to be shut down to stop COVID-19 spreading. They are likely to be among the last to reopen. SLT will clearly lose significant income. The employers body, the Local Government Association, has made it explicitly clear in its guidance to Council's that they have the following options,

'What are the risks if a leisure operator fails?

When a leisure operator running services on behalf of a council begin to fail, the council faces a difficult choice. It can either allow the operator to fail, potentially bringing any facilities owned by the council back in-house as a means of keeping them open, or it can choose to support the operator.

Either approach is likely to involve significant costs to the council.'

Sandwell UNISON has written to every Labour Councillor pointing this responsibility out. We have also been part of joint letters to the local MP's calling upon Government funds to be made available.

- **Maintain Social Distancing**
- **Get the PPE you need**
- **Keep Safe**

