

Karen Fisher- UNISON CCG Convener writes:  
We hope, you had a restful and enjoyable summer. Whether you are term time only or enjoyed booked time off, there is no denying that we have had a great summer weatherwise at least.

## Pay

Many of you will have received the one-off payment of £200 for FT employees or the pro-rata equivalent in your July pay and additionally heard the news this week of the 4% pay increase for all bar those on the Living and Minimum wage, to be paid as from 1<sup>st</sup> August. UNISON worked with the College to ensure a fair pay increase and we very much welcome the offer announced by Andy Green this week. For the first time in over a decade we have one that is over the rate of inflation, all be it only just with the consumer price index running at 3.8%. Still a rise of 4% is very welcome and Unison will continue to work both locally and nationally to keep FE in the spotlight for government funding, recognising the vital role we play in providing the training and skills young people will need going forward.

Back in May of this year I attended an evening held in Westminster by the National FE & 6<sup>th</sup> Form Colleges committee, where we invited MPs to hear more about the role that Colleges play in training the future workforce of the country. For too long Colleges have been woefully underfunded.

## Supporting Learners

Unison is very aware of the substantial increase of Learners with EHCP's and the additional pressures this puts on workloads for both teaching and support staff. With the CCG enrolling more students with additional needs across the group, the pressure on staff is greater than ever.

UNISON recognizes that all students deserve an equal opportunity to succeed, but this requires adequate staffing. We have raised concerns with both the CCG management and nationally through the Unison FE Colleges committee.

## Student behaviour in colleges



Back in June Karen attended the National Local Government conference. Here she spoke to conference on behalf of the FE & 6<sup>th</sup> form colleges committee on the increase nationally of violence in colleges. In a recent survey of UNISON members working in colleges, one in five told us they don't feel safe at work. If you are concerned about your wellbeing, please contact your rep. We attend Health and Safety committee's and are happy to raise concerns on your behalf.

## Supporting Members

Contact your Rep if you would like us to get a local concern forward on your behalf or to stand by your side as you do, it's what we are here for.

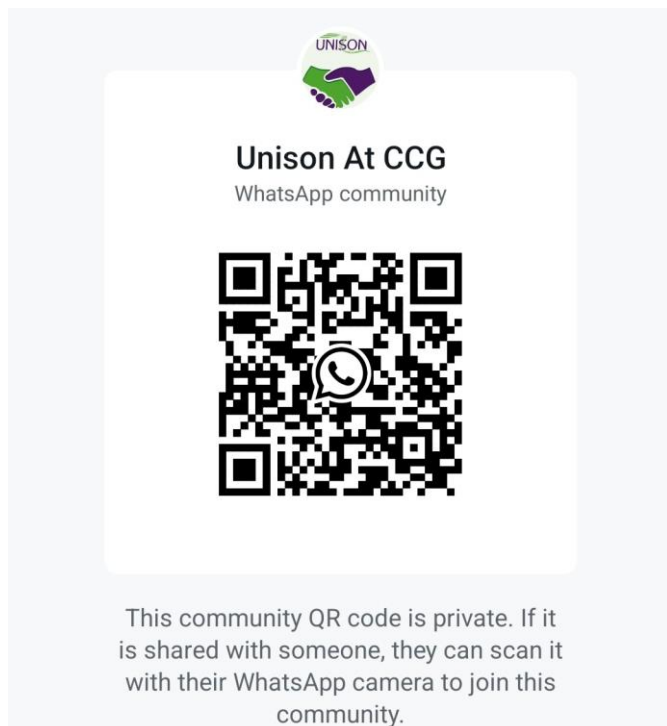


## Supporting Members

UNISON is the only trade union recognised by CCG to represent support staff in the group. We attend every meeting with local and senior management as well as having dedicated health and safety reps who also attend the college H & S meetings. We have your wellbeing at the forefront of everything we do.

## More ways to support you

We have a WhatsApp group



If you would like to join our WhatsApp group, please click on the QR code above.

## Rep Focus – Shaun Lynas



**Shaun is based at Northbrook College, West Durrington Campus. Shaun states, "I started at Northbrook in November 2020 and joined UNISON on my first day. I'm passionate about ensuring members feel listened to, respected, and valued through concrete actions from the college—actions**

address pay, working conditions, and opportunities for progression. I believe these improvements aren't simply given but achieved through collective bargaining and empowerment. UNISON's advocacy during the recent college mergers highlighted the importance of standing together to create a fairer and more supportive workplace. Becoming a rep has been a way to learn more about supporting members with both individual and collective issues and strengthening our base through recruitment. I want to empower others to recognise the strength we have when we act collectively."

Shaun's contact details as well as all other reps are detailed below.

## Development day 29<sup>th</sup> September

We hope to have a stall in as many campuses as possible on the next development day. Please look out for more details and do pop along and say hi. If you work with colleagues who are not yet members, encourage them to pop by - we will have a selection of merch for all.

## Contact Us

As a reminder for day to day inquiries you can contact the branch email, the Branch convener or your local rep:

Branch: [office.unison@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:office.unison@westsussex.gov.uk)

Convener: [karen.fisher@unisonwestsussex.org.uk](mailto:karen.fisher@unisonwestsussex.org.uk)

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Crawley College: [dbrowne@crawley.ac.uk](mailto:dbrowne@crawley.ac.uk)

Northbrook: [kevin.maunsell@gbmc.ac.uk](mailto:kevin.maunsell@gbmc.ac.uk);

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## In the spring term issue

