

Barnet UNISON: “BANNERS HELD HIGH” lobby : Tuesday 9 July 6 pm.



On behalf of our mental health social worker strikers, in solidarity with the **40th Anniversary of the Miners’ Strike**, Barnet UNISON is inviting supporters to our: **“BANNERS HELD HIGH” lobby of Barnet Council Full Council**
Tuesday 9 July 6pm outside Hendon Town Hall, NW4 4BG

The nearest tube station is Hendon station on the northern line. Turn right out of the station for a **10-minute walk** up the hill then turn right at the top and the Town Hall is a one-minute walk on the left.

In **2015**, our branch had the honour to march through Thatcher’s back yard with the late **Davey Hopper** and the **Durham Miners banner**, and the iconic **LGSM banner**.

<https://www.barnetunison.me.uk/wp/2015/09/11/join-the-original-members-of-lesbians-gays-support-miners-durham-miners-union-barnet-unison-on-kids4libraries-march/>

<https://www.barnetunison.me.uk/wp/2016/06/10/message-of-solidarity-from-davy-hopper/>

This lobby will mark the end of nine weeks of continuous strike action. By the end of this strike action our strikers will have taken **81 days of strike** action which started in **September 2023**.

Our strikers have stood up to the worst gaslighting and intimidation that our branch has seen ever.

Over the past four weeks **Labour controlled Barnet Council** has paid for a recruitment agency to provide social workers to carry out the work our strikers would be doing if they were not on strike.

It is UNISON's view that this **is strikebreaking**. Many UNISON members at UNISON conference agreed, along with our General Secretary Christina McAnea listen below.

<https://youtu.be/Wyl9UxFp5LA?feature=shared>

The actions of Barnet Council to employ **Tory tactics and anti-union laws** to strike break is an attack on the trade union movement as it provides cover for other employers to use the same tactics to break other strikes.

This is why there needs to mobilisation across the trade union movement publicly condemning strike breaking not just for our strike but all strikes.

You can provide support by calling out the Leader of Labour controlled Barnet Council by joining hundreds of trade union members and supporters in signing and sharing this statement.

<https://bit.ly/barnetstrike>

As trade unionists Barnet UNISON believes we should applaud our striker's commitment which is why our branch is asking trade union members across the country to make plans to attend this lobby and most importantly to bring banners/placards to Hendon Town Hall.

Please feel free to circulate this call to action to any who would like to support our lobby.

If you organise social workers, please feel free to share.

Finally, please let our strikers know if you are able to attend by sending an email to contactus@barnetunison.org.uk

In Solidarity
Barnet UNISON

Schools and Council UNISON Members: Have You Voted On Pay?

An incoming Government needs to know how we feel about pay in Councils and Schools. We are recommending you reject the offer. The last day to vote is this Friday before 12noon!

See here for more information: <https://www.unison.org.uk/njc-consultation-2024/>

UNISON speaks with one voice to Imperium Solutions – Stop Strike breaking



[Click the above image to watch the video](#)

Conference hails striking members

General secretary Christina McAnea called UNISON strikers from the last year forward to rapturous applause from the floor



The final day of UNISON's national delegate conference saw delegates rise to celebrate all those members who had been out on strike during the last year. General secretary Christina McAnea called the strikers forward to rapturous applause from the floor, with representatives from each of UNISON's 12 regions:

- Eastern: Bedfordshire Hospital and Colchester City Council
- East Midlands: Ashfield Academy, University Hospitals of Leicester and Northampton General Hospital
- London: NSL workers in Camden and Barnet mental health social workers
 - Northern: North and South Tees NHS
- Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland health and social care and the Northern Ireland education sector
- North West: Wirral HCA's, Mid-Cheshire HCA's and Warrington HCA's
- Scotland: Glasgow University, Scottish schools and Scotland further education
- South East: Brighton health & social care and Isle of Wight ISS
- South West: Wiltshire health & social care, Livability, Sodexo, North Devon Hospital and University Hospitals Plymouth
- West Midlands: University of Birmingham and Mitie in Dudley
 - Cymru/Wales: Welsh Ambulance Service
- Yorkshire & Humberside: Kirklees College, Glendale Grounds Maintenance, Barnsley College



Conference also went live to a picket line where Barnet mental health social workers were taking their 66th day of action.

Paying tribute to the strikers, Ms McAnea said: "This is a fantastic demonstration of the brave and courageous members in every region and nation of this union who have taken part in disputes against their employers on pay, defending services, jobs and terms and conditions."

[Click here to read further](#)

UNISON Conference Report

Local Government Service Group



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Our delegates were: Helen Davies, Pauline Riley, Lynsey Brady and Jaihanne Abdellatif. There was little opportunity for our delegates to get to speak but where we did, news of the strike by our Mental Health workers was well received. We soon ran out of t-shirts to sell.

National Delegate Conference



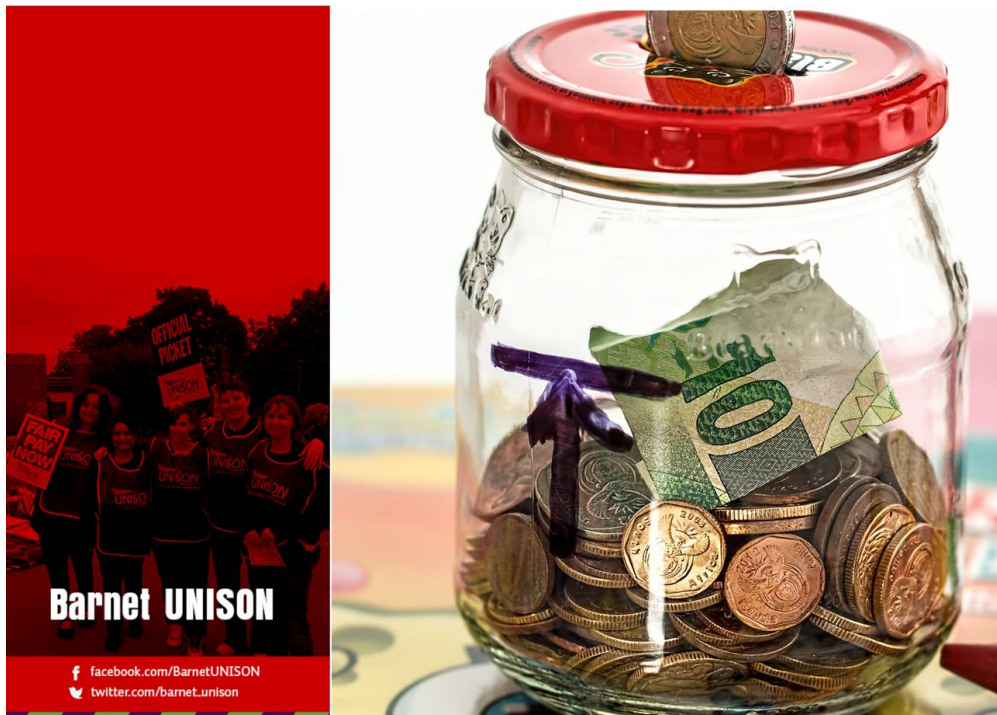
Our delegates were: Helen Davies, Anju Paul, Jakub Kozlowski and Medina Hussain. Medina managed to speak before the whole of conference about the Mental Health dispute and was very well received.

At both conferences there was a lot of coverage of the election where all delegates expressed joy at the idea of the Tories no longer in charge of Government but no one spoke of any illusions that under Labour things would automatically get better. The emphasis was on the need to fight and campaign for our members no matter who wins the election.

Both conferences discussed the incredible pressure being faced by migrant workers who are being ripped off with extortionate visa qualifications and associated costs. There are also migrants now with their visa being tied to their employer which is resulting in horrific practices as they worry complaining will mean they lose their job. None of this helps any workers in the service, nor the people they serve. All it does is promote division and exploitation. UNISON is determined to help its migrant members with legal advice and with self organising.

Both conferences also discussed the need to support and get behind our “Year of the LGBT+ worker” campaign. LGBT+ members are facing increased discrimination and concern about being supported by colleagues where they work. Physical assaults on LGBT+ people have risen significantly over the last couple of years as politicians have again chosen to campaign on attacking those people who are challenging the notion that the World has to be divided between 2 genders only determined at birth. Perhaps if politicians did less commentating on this and focussed more on funding the services we all need, then all members of our communities might thrive! UNISON is committed to promoting the rights of all our LGBT+ members.

Pensions 1 to 1 meetings in Colindale Office



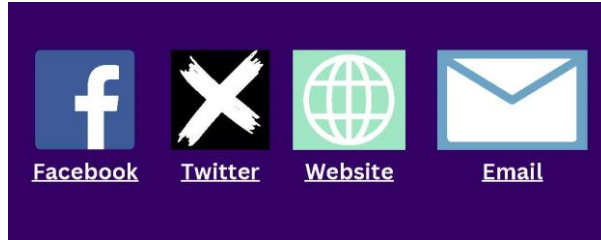
Barnet UNISON is supporting this opportunity for staff to have 1 to 1 meeting about the Council Pension scheme.

The next Pension session is on **11 July**. The meetings will take place in Colindale in **room 1.3**. Staff will need to email pensions@barnet.gov.uk to book an appointment. It will be on **'first come-first served'** basis.

The future dates are:

1. 14 August
 2. 11 September
 3. 9 October
 4. 5 November
 5. 11 December
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