

The Wakey Worker

WAKEFIELD DISTRICT UNISON

WAKEFIELD COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY & PRIVATE

APRIL UPDATES

Migrant Workers

April 9th 2025 sees changes for migrant workers in the care sector where the employer has had their license revoked. Visas will no longer be ended immediately, workers will be added to a Regional Hub to support displaced workers which will aid securing new sponsorship. Below is the Gov. official guidance. The Regional Hubs will contact workers and referred to the Displaced Worker Hub which is accessed by legitimate UK employers who are searching for staff. The employer now has to check the list before they sponsor new international applicants. The process will make transferring sponsorship quicker with no additional fees.

Extra support for displaced workers includes financial support, help finding a new employer and mental health and well-being services.

Displaced workers

The changes are welcomed by UNISON who are supporting members every day with stories of bad employers threats to jobs and little or no family life.



Please contact your branch for support if you need support and remember to register with UNISON's Migrant Worker Network where additional information is shared to support our members on related issues. Please see below links for the Network and the Autonomy Database.

www.unison.org.uk/unison-migrant-worker-network/
www.autonomy.work/care-visa-sponsor-database-v2

JOIN



HERE

Education

Violence at work is something that is becoming every day for members in the education sector. It is not ok to be attacked regardless of how old a student is. If you are attacked please report this to SLT and ask to see risk assessments where necessary. Keep a record of near misses too as they are just as important as accidents/assaults. Put in writing what has happened as well as verbally reporting incidents. Speak with your UNISON representatives for more support as we can raise concerns at the employer/union meetings, ask for policy to change to reflect what is happening.

“Goodwill” is another big concern for our members. Many members are told they should use goodwill to aid schools. Whilst most members are happy to go above and beyond it is unfair to expect goodwill to mount up to hours per week. Staying behind until reports are filed without pay but facing disciplinary or support plans for not being “competent”. Each day may be different but goodwill is becoming the go to word and expectations of the employer rather than increasing hours to suit the needs of the job and the school. If you are concerned about the amount of this goodwill expectations please contact the branch for support.

TUPE is a regular occurrence for members in the catering and cleaning sector of education. The TUPE process means the incoming employer is varying your contract in regards them being the new employer, changes to pay dates sometimes changes to...

...contractual rights are discussed in the “measures” letter. TUPE does not mean you have to receive a completely new contract just a variation to state what the changes are but for all other Ts & Cs to remain the same. Changes to contractual rights cannot be imposed prior to transfer nor can they happen without consultation and wherever possible agreement. It is often expected that the new employer can change things just because it is written in the measure. “ETO” Economical, Technical and Organisational reasons have to be provided. Harmonizing to suit what is currently in place for existing employees is not one of those reasons. Even if your current employer does not recognise a union, please call and ask for support to avoid detrimental changes that should not happen.

NMW

The NMW increased with effect from the 1st of April 2025. Just a reminder that if your monthly salary covers March/April dates you may not see the increase until the following month as the old rate applies until the next pay date.

	NMW rate from 1/4/25	Hourly Increase (£)	Annual Increase (%)
National Living Wage (21+)	£12.21	£0.77	6.7
18-20	£10	£1.40	16.3
16-17	£7.55	£1.15	18
Apprentice	£7.55	£1.15	18
Accomodation Offset	£10.66	£0.67	6.7

Membership Details

I wish to thank you as UNISON members and our Stewards who without their support would make supporting our members so much more difficult. UNISON contacts all member queries as quickly as possible but this may take a few days due to the volume of work. Please be patient with us as we will contact you as soon as possible. If you have urgent issues outside of office hours please contact our UNISON Direct number on 0800 0857857. Finally, please remember to update your membership details and keep them up to date when changing employer, salary changes, email/home addresses/ phone numbers and any other changes that we need to know about.

-Carol Dewrow

You can get in contact with the branch by phone or email. Our admin staff are often quite busy so if there is no answer, please leave a message and they will phone you back, or; send us an email with your details and we will allocate you a representative.

CONTACT US:
01924 305360
contact@unison-wakefield.org.uk

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS:
www.UNISON.org.uk/my-UNISON/

Wakefield District UNISON Branch's NEC Nominations

Local Government Seats



Andrea Egan
Local Government (f)



Jane Doolan
Local Government (f)



David Jones
Local Government (g)



Jenny Black
Local Government (g)

Yorkshire & Humberside Seats



Greta Holmes
Y'shire & Humber (f)



Julie Forgan
Y'shire & Humber (f)



Tony Wright
Y'shire & Humber (g)



Jayne Bouskall
Y'shire & Humber (r)

Black Members Seats



Antonia Bright
Black Members (f)



April Ashley
Black Members (f)



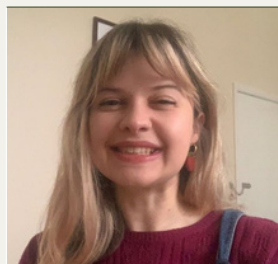
Amerat Raft
Black Members (g)



Julia Mwaluke
Black Members (r)

Disabled Members Seats

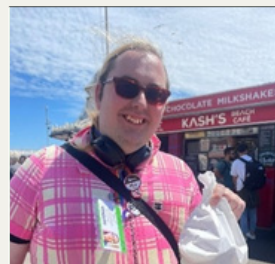
Young Members Seats



Natasha Bednall
Young Members (f)



Kameron Spence
Young Members (g)



Ellie Waple
Disabled Members (f)



Tara Thomas
Disabled Members (g)

(f): Female Seat
(g): General Seat
(r): Reserved Seat



Press Release

Treatment of migrant care worker in Yorkshire is perfect example of issues in system, says UNISON

A migrant care worker based in Yorkshire faces being deported in May if he is unable to find work, despite there being over 12,500 vacancies in the sector, says UNISON today (Wednesday).

Tonye Chrisholm Jaja came to the UK from Nigeria on a health and care visa, when he was sponsored by Universal Healthy Minds Ltd. But the company has had its license removed by the Home Office, as it was considered not fit and proper to sponsor migrant workers.

Tonye, who lives in Leeds and worked in the Wakefield district, has been without a sponsor since December, and although he has been trying to find a new one, employers are telling him they can't offer full time hours, meaning they cannot meet the requirements of the visa scheme.

He has now been issued with a deportation notice. This means Tonye has until 2 May to find another sponsor, or leave the UK.

This would result in a skilled care worker leaving the country, despite the care sector having 12,700 vacancies, says UNISON.

UNISON Yorkshire and Humberside migrant worker lead Jordan Stapleton said: "Tonye's situation is a clear example of the awful experiences faced by many migrant workers who come to this country.

"It is crazy that a skilled worker could be forced to leave the country when there are thousands of vacancies in the sector already.

"It's time for the government to introduce sectoral sponsorship, as UNISON is campaigning for – meaning workers in Tonye's position could secure full time work by combining contracts with different employers.

"The government should be doing all it can to fill these vacant positions – not turning skilled workers away."