

# UNISON

## Caerphilly Branch



## 2025 - A Tough Year Ahead

Following on from the Council proposals last summer and the devastating closure of Llancaiach Fawr, sadly 2025 is already shaping up to be more of the same. With massive savings still to be made, the spotlight has now been turned squarely on to our leisure centres and libraries.

As your trade union we are focused on the impact this will have on jobs and our communities.

We will work with HR to ensure we can use existing organisational policies to keep compulsory redundancies to a minimum and work constructively with our sister trade unions to protect as many jobs as we possibly can.

The decision on both services will be the subject of debate at Joint Scrutiny on 12<sup>th</sup> May and a special Cabinet meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### 2025 - MORE CUTS AHEAD?

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY CAMPAIGN 2025

#### MEET OUR NEW BRANCH OFFICERS!



# It's time for fair pay

## Council & school worker pay 2025

### Council and School Pay

Since 2010, council and school staff have suffered a 25% real terms pay cut. Across the UK, 900,000 jobs have been lost in local government during the same period – a reduction of more than 30%. Without dedicated staff local government will collapse, and without fair pay, councils will continue to struggle to recruit and retain staff.

As you will be aware the NJC Trade Union side (Unison, Unite and GMB) submitted a pay claim for a pay increase of £3,000 on all pay points.

This would be pro rata'd for part time and term time only staff.

In our view, this claim would begin to reverse the pay depletion that our members have suffered.

We also asked for: A clear plan to reach a minimum pay rate of £15 an hour; one extra day of annual leave for all staff; a reduction in the working week by two hours, with no loss of pay, and the ability for school staff to take (at least) one day of their annual leave during term time, with no loss of pay.

The employers side have now responded with an offer of 3.2% increase on all pay points but a firm 'No' on all the other pay claim points.

The NJC committee is due to meet on 8 May to consider the offer. We'll be holding a UNISON Matters event at **12 noon on May 15th** to update you on the very latest developments. Please contact the Branch for the joining link.

Finally, one of the fundamentals of this claim is that it is properly funded from central government. Full details of the claim and how you can email your elected representative requesting it is debated in parliament can be found by clicking the link here: <https://www.unison.org.uk/our-campaigns/council-school-pay/>

# New Officers in Branch

Following the AGM's in March we have a new look team of Officers and Stewards. Into the Branch comes Sarah Meyrick as the Education & Training Officer, Kate Gurmin as Assistant Treasurer, Joseph Dicks as International Officer, Logan Toy as Young Members' Officer and Remi Van Reeth who is the Branch's new Equalities Officer.

Remi introduces himself here:

"I have been working for Caerphilly Council for 8 years, first in the Catering department, then in the Business Improvement and the Engagement teams, and I have just started a new role with the Portfolio team. I felt the need to apply for Branch Equalities Officer role as I wanted to do more on a local level.

In a time when equality, diversity, and inclusion face challenges from authoritarian leaders worldwide, I wanted to act where I could have an impact: my goal is to ensure that CCBC remains a place where everyone feels valued and respected, regardless of gender, nationality, religion, or any other aspect of our identities. We should all celebrate what makes us unique and diverse, and we should all fight injustice and intolerance wherever we see it.

This year, I look forward to playing my part and working with all of you to make our council a great place where we can truly be ourselves."

International Officer Joseph Dicks Says:

"I'm Joseph and I am the new International Officer. I work in CCBC at the Tir-Y-Berth Depot and at University I studied a BA and MA in International Relations. Naturally, this led me to take an interest in the International Officer role, as I wanted to get more involved in the Union with something I had a background in. I am looking forward to representing Caerphilly Branch on the International stage, linking up with other union groups and raising awareness of issues at home and abroad.

I hope to keep a "big picture" mentality over the coming year, because the world is so increasingly interconnected, and worker's rights all over the world will affect us in one way or another. The fight for fair working conditions and treatment is an international one and isn't defined by borders.

I'm looking forward to working with everyone and making a visible improvement in Caerphilly!"



# Meet the team!

We're looking forward to working with all Officers and Stewards throughout the year and I'm sure all of our members will get to know all the new faces as they start their UNISON journey!

We still have a couple of Branch Officer positions available so if you fancy undertaking the LGBT Officer Role or the Labour Link Officer role then please contact the Branch.



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## Meet our team



**Lianne Dallimore**

Secretary



**Juan-Antonio Garcia**

Chair



**Steve Gardiner**

Branch Support



**Remi van Reeth**

Equalities Officer



**Gareth Williams**

Treasurer



**Emma Saunders**

Environmental Officer



**Sarah Meyrick**

Union Learning Rep



**Kate Gurmin**

Assistant Treasurer



**Eve Williams**

Black Members Officer



**Caroline Jones**

Disabilities Officer



**Bob Campbell**

Pensions Officer



**Joseph Dicks**

International Officer



**Vikki Giles**

Women's Officer



**Lucy McDonald**

Women's Officer



**Emma Chalk**

Welfare Officer



**Logan Toy**

Young Members Officer