

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SCHOOLS PAY OFFER 2026

WE ASKED FOR

- an increase of £3000 or 10% whichever is greater
- a minimum of £15 per hour for all staff
- a two-hour reduction in the working week
- an increase of one days annual leave
- school support staff to take a days paid annual leave during term time

COST OF LIVING

**WATER BILLS UP 26% ENERGY BILLS
UP 13% FOOD UP 5.9% RENT 5.7%**



**WE DESERVE
TO BE PAID A
FAIR WAGE**

THEY OFFERED US 3.3% ON ALL PAY POINTS.

Preparations are being made for the next steps and you will hear soon. In the meantime, please make sure your details are up to date phone numbers and personal emails. We will keep you up to date but we can only do this together.

Bolton Branch

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www.unisonbolton.org



**A BIG THANK YOU FOR ALL
THE EASTER EGG DONATIONS
FOR OUR ENDEAVOUR APPEAL.**

**AS ALWAYS, YOU CAME
TOGETHER TO GIVE AND
SUPPORT THOSE WHO
NEEDED IT.**



MARCH TOGETHER - SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 2026

On Saturday 28th March a coach full of UNISON activists travelled to London to join the national demonstration "March Together" against the far right. They joined tens of thousands of people in the capital in what has been called the largest ever march against the far right on record.

Our very own Andrea Egan addressed the crowd. "Trade unions have always stood on the side of unity and fairness. UNISON sees solidarity in action every day with people working side by side delivering public service's in our care homes, NHS, schools and councils. The politics of hate and division cannot be allowed to go unchallenged. UNISON has a long and proud history of challenging racism and all forms of discrimination"

Joint Branch Secretary Christine Collins said "The march was a show of true British unity and a mixture of culture, nationality, race, gender, backgrounds and a true reflection of what makes our country great. It gave us that sense of hate will never win because we are many and they are few."

STRIKE CAMPAIGNS

Our Joint Branch Secretaries Christine and Jo and Joint Assistant Branch Secretary Sam were out supporting our fellow comrades on the picket line this month. We joined members from the Northern Care Alliance supporting the ICU nurses.



We also joined porter drivers at Greater Manchester Mental Health Hospital. They requested a job evaluation which was found to be in their favour but was then rejected by the employer. They were demanding fair pay for the vital work they do.

UPDATE after 27 days of industrial action

THEY HAVE WON !!



They will now be moved to Band 3 with back pay to July 2024. **WELL DONE !!**

This is what organising and standing together can do.



INTERNATIONAL WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY 2026

On Tuesday 28th April a group of Bolton trade union activists marched with banners from the Hub in Bolton to Bolton Town Hall to commemorate International Workers Memorial Day. Following a minute's silence, wreaths were laid on the IWMD stone and speeches were given on the Town Hall steps.



One was by our very own Health & Safety officer, Tracey Rigby who spoke about the daily challenges workers face in order to work in a safe environment. The second was by a gentleman called Lal from Salford UNISON who spoke about the fair visa campaign and highlighted the exploitation of migrant workers and the lives lost by those who choose to come and work in Britain.





Employment Rights Act Changes April 2026

A NEW ERA OF WORKPLACE RIGHTS

The Employment Rights Act introduces the biggest upgrade to workers' rights in a generation.

- **Statutory sick pay from day one** – statutory sick pay will be paid from the first day of illness instead of the fourth day and the earnings threshold is eliminated.



- **Paternity leave** – paternity leave will become a “day one right”, allowing someone to give notice of leave from the first day of employment
- **Ordinary parental leave or unpaid parental leave** – will also become a day one right (currently 1 year) and the restriction on taking paternity leave after shared parental leave will be removed

- **Holiday records** – employers must keep records of annual leave and holiday pay. These must be kept for a minimum of 6 years and be GDPR compliant.



- **Whistleblowing protections for sexual harassment** – sexual harassment will become a “qualifying disclosure” under whistleblowing law. This means whistleblowers making a sexual harassment disclosure have protection from detriment and unfair dismissal.

- **Fair Work Agency** – The Fair Work Agency is established, whose powers will include enforcing tribunal judgements that have been ignored and the payment of settlements, and tackling exploitation in the labour market.



- **Trade union recognition** – from April 2026 how a trade union can be recognised in a workplace will be simplified and the support threshold will be lowered.

DO YOU USE YOUR CAR FOR WORK?

If so, have your say in UNISON's national survey which is aiming to tackle the “MILEAGE GAP”

Are you left out of pocket using your car? This is a very real issue for many of our members especially in the current fuel crisis. Our hard-working frontline staff shouldn't have to pay out themselves to do their jobs.

**WE DESERVE BETTER AND
BY WORKING TOGETHER WE
CAN ACHIEVE THIS**

**PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW
AND COMPLETE THE SURVEY AND
HAVE YOUR SAY**



SAVE THE DATE!! - NEW WOMEN'S GROUP 6TH JUNE

This will be an informal group,
with the aim of empowering women and building confidence.

We will network and have a free space to chat openly about any work issues and challenge issues we may all be dealing with.



We will have CAKE and guest speakers and a sound bath at the end to help you relax.

We want to enable your voice to be heard, to get advice from other members and to allow women to meet especially if you're lonely or isolated.

Does this sound like something you may be interested in?

If so please contact the Branch Office on 01204 247947 or email admin@unisonbolton.org and let us know. **More details to follow**

NEW NAME IN LEISURE

The start of April saw a new chapter for Bolton's leisure services. Following a successful tendering application from Active Bolton, they will now be looking after the leisure services across the borough of Bolton. They will be offering services across six sites in Bolton from swimming and gym classes to hosting community groups. Active Bolton are a registered charity with 25 years experience at Bolton Arena. All staff have been transferred from Serco.



On Sunday mornings from 3rd May to 13th September Active Bolton are offering free yoga sessions in Queens Park 9.30am, open to all, no need to book, just bring a mat.



10 MINUTE TALK

Our convenors, Phil Chanin and Lauren Alergant have been holding regular 10 minute talks across Bolton Council and Bolton schools. If you would like them to visit your workplace please contact the Branch Office.



The UNISON member engagement questionnaire is still open. If you have a spare 2 minutes please fill it in and let us know what you think. What you say matters.



REMEMBER YOU ARE THE UNION

As a branch we want to inspire and support members all the time.

From courses in Maths and English to courses in menopause awareness and digital photography, our UNISON learning page is for you.



Would you like to help members by having a more active role in UNISON? You could be a workplace contact or steward? If you decided to, you will be provided with support and training throughout your journey. Contact the branch for more information.

 **Endeavour**
endeavourproject.org.uk

REMEMBERING ELLEN STRANGE

Saturday 4 July 2026

from Emmanuel Church, Chapel Lane,
Holcombe BL8 4LZ
at 10.30am

Join Team Endeavour at our annual Ellen Strange Memorial event with optional walk to Ellen's memorial on Holcombe Hill to remember all those affected by Domestic Abuse

The walk takes about 45 minutes and is not suitable for wheelchairs, push chairs or those with mobility issues

Stalls, Entertainment and Crafts are provided at the church for those who are not walking

for information and booking,
email: angelag@endeavourproject.org.uk

This is a free event, but you must book to attend

