

**Nottinghamshire County Branch  
UNISON**

# **Member's Guide**

**(2026)**



## Introduction

This is your Guide to who's who and what's what in Nottinghamshire County UNISON. As a Branch, we are totally committed to the principle of the "member-led union", so it's important that everyone knows where they fit in and feels at home – it may not seem like it sometimes, but this really is your union!

If the Branch is going to operate efficiently and be truly representative of our membership, everyone needs to play their part, whether it's by volunteering to become a UNISON steward or just by attending members' meetings and voting in elections. After all, if you don't, why should anyone else?

While we represent members and deal with emergencies at work, we are not a firm of solicitors or the AA. Besides myself, and other than Mick Alderson, who represents our members in the Private and Voluntary sector and Carol Warren and Dona Bickerdyke who represent members in Schools and Academies, all of our activists are volunteer stewards and Branch Officers who have been elected to a union post while also doing a job for their employer. Without a steady stream of new volunteers – as others leave or retire – the union could not do any of the things it needs to.

UNISON is a democracy in which every member plays an equal part – and unlike Parliament or the Council, you are the ones who can make or change policy. Whether you enjoy your job or not, it is an important part of your life and you will have an opinion on it. We want to hear it, so come along and Make A Difference!



Jo Myers  
Branch Organiser

## Who's in the Branch

Our Branch is one of the biggest – and strongest! – in UNISON. We have over 7,900 members, working within Notts County Council, Education, with members in Academies and FE Colleges, the Private and Voluntary Sector, and the Fire and Rescue Service.

## Departmental - Local Organisation

Most questions and problems relate to members' own jobs or workplace, so our organisation is concentrated at Departmental and local level. We aim to recruit a Steward (ie local representative) in each workplace and one per 20 members in larger workplaces. The branch website: [www.nottsunison.org.uk](http://www.nottsunison.org.uk) contains the names and phone numbers of the Convenor (and most senior Stewards) in your Department or Sector.

Each Steward attends a Stewards' Committee, which discusses issues particular to her/his Department or Sector and each Stewards' Committee elects a Convenor and Senior Stewards to make sure that members are represented and negotiations are pursued with management as necessary. If you can't contact your Steward (or don't have one) these are the next people in line.



## What does UNISON do?

The union may take up any issue to do with your work or affecting your work – it's as wide as that. We can't guarantee to solve every problem, but you will get expert advice. Below are some examples:

- Disciplinary/criminal allegations relating to your work
- Sexual/racial harassment or bullying
- Grievances over work-related issues
- Grading of posts and Job Evaluation
- Health and Safety issues/accidents/stress
- Unreasonable demands by managers
- Financial and other Welfare problems

As well as representing individual members, UNISON also negotiates your Conditions of Service at local level and pay at national level. Your HR policies contain the results of these negotiations.

UNISON is the key union on the negotiating panel with every employer where we are recognised. We also have face to face negotiations with smaller employers over particular issues.

We can obtain expert legal advice as necessary and will provide free legal representation when the situation requires.

With such a large Branch, there is always lots of work to undertake and until recent years we maintained a branch office however, since Covid, most of us now work from home but our postal address is:

**Notts UNISON (suite 12)  
c/o Bizspace  
Arnold Business Centre,  
Brookfield Road,  
Arnold,  
Nottingham NG5 7ER**

## Branch Officers

- Branch Secretary • Karen Eddy
- Assistant Secretary • Colin Armstrong
- Chair • James Minto
- Vice Chair • Everton Lewis-Gordon
- Service Conditions Officer • Sara Evans
- Treasurer • Ged Talty
- Assistant Treasurer • Shane Hodgkinson
- Health & Safety officer • Everton Lewis-Gordon
- Education Co-Ordinator • Vacant
- Life Long Learning Officer • Vacant
- Equalities Officer • Vacant
- Communications Officer • Glenn Warren
- Welfare Officers • Sara Evans & Daniel Newham – job share
- SOG officer posts • Selected by SOG members
- Labour Link Officer • Elected by LL affiliated members

## Departmental Convenors

### Notts County Council

- Adult Social Care & Health • Natalie Bryan
- Children, Families & Cultural Services • Shane Hodgkinson - Social Work  
• Alastair Prideaux - Schools
- Chief Executive • Everton Lewis-Gordon
- Place • Colin Armstrong  
Catering Cleaning and Landscapes
- Academies • Dona Bickerdyke  
Branch Academies Organiser

## Equality and Self-Organisation

Ever since it was formed, UNISON has had equality squarely at the top of its agenda – and our organisation reflects this.

About 80% of our members are women and our “Proportionality” policy is designed to get us to the position where women play the major role in the union. As you will see from the list of Branch Officers, Convenors and Senior Stewards, there are a lot of women’s names – but we still have some way to go to achieve our aim.

There are a number of groups of members within UNISON who feel at a disadvantage in getting involved and, to combat this feeling of exclusion, there are six “Self-Organised Groups” operating at Branch and/or Regional and National level. These are for:

- Black Members
- Disabled Members
- LGBT+ Members
- Women Members
- Young Members
- Retired Members

The groups decide for themselves what they are going to do and feed ideas and proposals into the Branch Committee as they wish. Each group has an Officer to co-ordinate activities (see next page).



## Self-Organised Groups “SOGs”



**Young Members Officer:  
Vacant**



**Retired Members Officer:  
Pete Watson & Martin Sleath**



**Disabled Members Officer:  
Vacant**



**Women Members Officer:  
Vacant**



**LGBT+ Members Officer:  
Mervyn Busby-Jeavons**



**Black Members Officer:  
Alison Lewis**

## The Notts UNISOM Team



**Karen Eddy**  
Branch Secretary



**James Minto**  
Branch Chair



**Alison Lewis**  
Black Members  
Officer



**Ged Talty**  
Treasurer



**Dona Bickerdyke**  
Branch Organiser:  
Academies



**Colin Armstrong**  
Assistant Secretary &  
Convenor: Place



**Everton Lewis-Gordon**  
Vice Chair - H&S & International  
Officer & Convenor: Resources



**Jo Myers**  
Branch Organiser: Fire & Rescue  
& Further Education



**Phil Gunn**  
Branch Admin Manager

## The Notts UNISOM Team



**Natalie Bryan**

Convenor: Adult Social  
Care and Health



**Mick Alderson**

Branch PVS Officer: Private &  
Voluntary and Charity Sector



**Sara Evans**

Welfare Officer



**Shane Hodgkinson**

Assistant Treasurer and  
Convenor: Social Care



**Gill Robinson**

Branch Admin Assistant



**Alastair Prideaux**

Convenor: Children Families  
& Cultural Services | Schools



**Mervyn Busby-Jeavons**

LGBT Members Officer:



**Carol Warren**

Case Worker



**Martin Sleath**

Joint Retired Members Officer

# The Notts UNISON Team



**Michelle Anthony**  
Branch Admin Assistant



**Pete Watson**  
Joint Retired Members Officer



**Glenn Warren**  
Communications and  
Social Media Officer



**Vacant**  
Disabled Members Officer



**Vacant**  
Women Members Officer:



**Vacant**  
Young Members Officer



**Vacant**  
Labour Link Officer:

This, in a nutshell, is your UNISON Branch. As it says above, the Branch is run by volunteers who feel strongly about right and wrong and believe that everyone should be treated fairly and with respect.

The most experienced Branch Officer started off as an ordinary member like you. For those who are interested in getting involved, we have a programme of training and time off with pay is allowed for union activities. Many of the 1,500 or so workplaces we cover do not currently have a UNISON Steward and your Convenor or a Branch Officer would be happy to discuss what becoming more active in the union would mean to you. Alternatively you could 'phone the Branch office for an information leaflet.

Whether you're part-time or full-time, whatever your gender, you shouldn't underestimate what you can contribute: this really is your opportunity to Make a Difference!



Jo Myers  
Branch Organiser



# Links to Members Information



- [Notts UNISON](#)
- [UNISON \(East Midlands\)](#)
- [UNISON \(National\)](#)
- [UNISON \(International\)](#)
- [Education and Training \(East Midlands\)](#)
- [UNISON College](#)
- [UNISON Young Members \(National\)](#)
- [UNISON Black Members \(National\)](#)
- [UNISON Disabled Members \(National\)](#)
- [UNISON LGBT+ Members \(National\)](#)
- [UNISON Women Members \(National\)](#)
- [UNISON Retired Members \(National\)](#)
- [Membership services - exclusive deals and offers!](#)
- [TUC](#)
- [Legal Services](#)
- [Nottinghamshire County Council](#)
- [Labour Link](#)
- [National info on Labour Link and Political Affiliations](#)

...tap or click to open



# HOW NOTTS UNISON BRANCH WORKS

## MEMBERS

*The foundation of everything*

- Join the union
- Vote in ballots
- Raise workplace issues



## STEWARDS / REPS

*Frontline representation*

- Support members day-to-day
- Handle grievances & disciplinaries
- Organise locally



## CONVENOR

*Workplace lead rep*

- Coordinates all stewards
- Leads negotiations with management
- Sets workplace strategy
- Links workplace to branch



## BRANCH

*Local union structure*

### Branch Officers:

- Branch Secretary (lead officer)
- Chair
- Treasurer
- Equalities Officers
- Health & Safety / Learning Reps

### What the branch does:

- Supports reps & convenors
- Runs campaigns
- Provides resources & legal backing
- Organises ballots & disputes

**MEMBERS → REPS → CONVENOR → BRANCH → EAST MIDLANDS → NATIONAL**

**Strong reps. Strong branch. Stronger together.**

## CONNECT WITH US ON:



**facebook**

[www.facebook.com/notts.branch](http://www.facebook.com/notts.branch)



**X**

[x.com/NottsUnison](https://x.com/NottsUnison)



**Instagram**

[www.instagram.com/nottsunisonbranch](http://www.instagram.com/nottsunisonbranch)



**You Tube**

[www.youtube.com/@NottsUNISON](http://www.youtube.com/@NottsUNISON)

Tap, click or scan to follow us and stay updated!





**Notts UNISON (suite 12)  
c/o Bizspace  
Arnold Business Centre,  
Brookfield Road,  
Arnold,  
Nottingham NG5 7ER**



**0115 9810405**



**[www.nottsunison.org.uk](http://www.nottsunison.org.uk)**



**[branch.office@nottsunison.org.uk](mailto:branch.office@nottsunison.org.uk)**



**UNISONDirect: 0800 085 7857**

**UNISON Online Enquiries: [www.unison.org.uk/get-help/online-enquiries](http://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/online-enquiries)**