



Member's Guide

Nottinghamshire County Branch 2023-24

your friend at work



Notts UNISON

c/o East Midlands UNISON Regional Centre
Vivian Avenue, Sherwood Rise
Nottingham NG5 1 AF

TELEPHONE: 0115 9810405

(Mon – Thurs 9.00am-5.00pm, Fri 9.00am-4.00pm)

Email: branch.office@nottsunison.org.uk

Website: www.nottsunison.org.uk



Introduction

This is your Guide to who's who and what's what in Notts 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, 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
Jo Myers
Branch Organiser

Nottinghamshire UNISON

Who's in the Branch

Our Branch is one of the biggest – and strongest! – in UNISON. We have over 7,000 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.

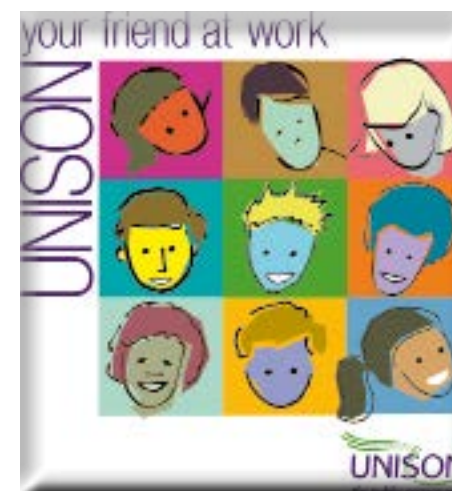
Departmental/Local Organisation

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 contains the names and phone numbers of all the Convenor (most senior Steward) 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.



Nottinghamshire UNISON

Central Branch Organisation

With such a big Branch, there is lots of work to do and we have our own Branch Office. The address is:

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E-Mail: branch.office@nottsunison.org.uk **Branch website:** www.nottsunison.org.uk

Branch Officers

Branch Secretary -	Karen Eddy
Branch Chair -	James Minto
Service Conditions Officers -	Ged Talty & Jonathan Rice
Asst Secretary -	vacant
Vice Chair -	Everton Lewis-Gordon
Equalities Officer -	Colin Armstrong
Health & Safety Officer -	Everton Lewis-Gordon

Departmental Convenors

Notts County Council

Adult Social Care & Health	Natalie Bryan
Children, Families & Cultural Services	Shane Hodgkinson - Social Work Alastair Prideaux - Schools
Chief Executives	Everton Lewis-Gordon
Place	Colin Armstrong - Catering Cleaning and Landscapes
Academies	Dona Bickerdyke (Branch Academies Organiser)
Further Education	We have stewards in all the Colleges, supported by Jo Myers, (Branch Organiser)
Fire and Rescue Service	We have stewards at Bestwood Lodge and elsewhere, supported by Jo Myers (Branch Organiser)
Private & Voluntary/Charity Sector	- Contact Mick Alderson (Branch PVS Officer)
VIA East Midlands	Richard Downing - Highways

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.



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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 75% 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 four “Self-Organised Groups” operating at Branch and/or Regional and National level. These are for:

Black Members.....

Disabled Members.....

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Members.....

Women 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).

Nottinghamshire UNISON

Branch Equalities Officer

Colin Armstrong



Black Members Officer

Ali Lewis



Disabled Members Officer

vacant



LGBT+ Members Officer

vacant



Women Members Officer

Sara Evans

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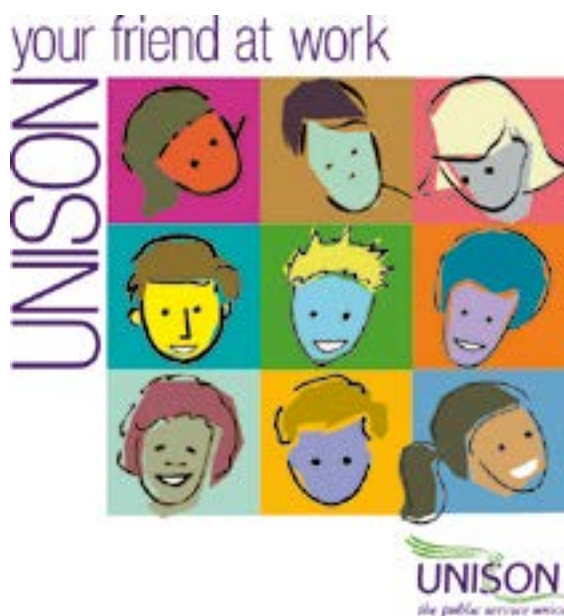
PS.....

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, a woman or a man, you shouldn't underestimate what you can contribute: this really is your opportunity to Make A Difference!



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