



U-KNOW

MAY 2026



UNISON to Ballot for Strike on Local Government Pay

UNISON's national representatives have formally rejected the employers' 3.3% pay offer and will now move straight to an official industrial action ballot.



As part of the national campaign strategy, the union will initially target a smaller number of large employers.* This approach is designed to maximise the chances of exceeding the 50% turnout threshold required under current legislation.



Ballot papers will be issued from 9 July and must be returned by 6 August.



What You Need to Do Now



1. Check your details are up to date
2. Step up as a rep or pay contact
3. Encourage non-members to join UNISON using the QR code included in this newsletter. The more members we have, the stronger our collective voice.

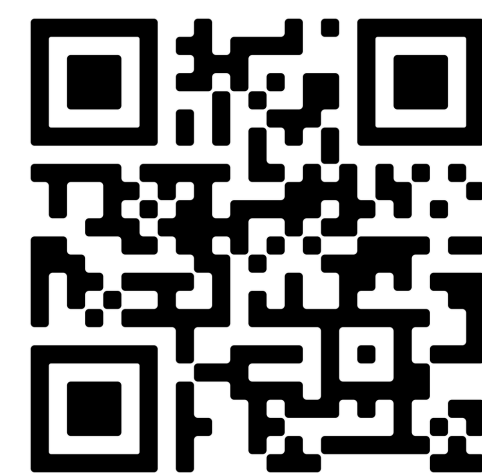
See inside for further details ...

WHO WE ARE

UNISON is the majority Trade Union for public service workers in Knowsley.

We stand together to build worker power and win improvements to our pay, conditions and working lives.

Join Today



join.unison.org.uk

0151 548 0148

boa@knowsley-unison.org.uk

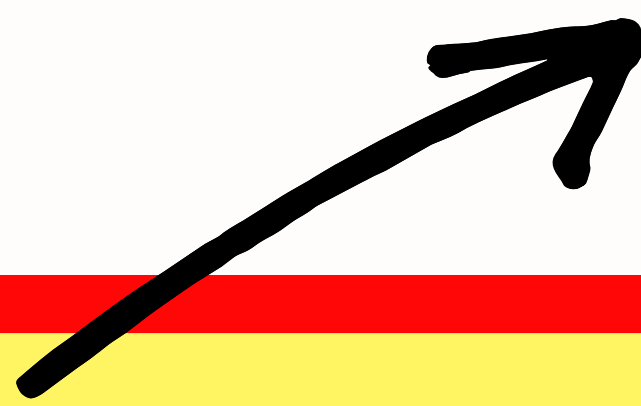
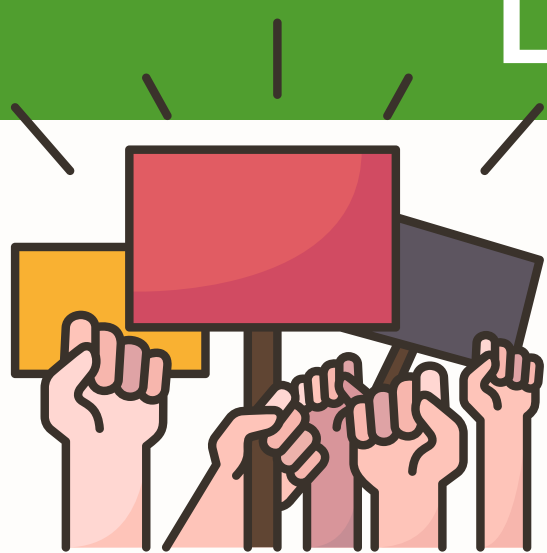
Website www.knowsley-unison.org.uk and follow us on social media



Facebook www.facebook.com/knowsleyunison / Twitter: Follow us @KnowsleyUnison



Knowsley UNISON, UNISON Office, C/O KMBC, Stretton Way, Huyton, L36 6JF



Update Your Details!

All members should ensure we have correct details including; name, address, email, mobile number, job title and workplace. This is important to ensure successful negotiations.

To give ourselves the strongest possible chance of success, all members are asked to take the following steps:



- 1. Check your details are up to date - Log into My UNISON (my.unison.org.uk) and ensure your home address, workplace, and job title are correct. Ballot papers will be sent by post, so this is essential.
- 2. Step up as a rep or pay contact - Becoming a workplace rep or pay contact helps strengthen communication and organisation across teams during the ballot.
- 3. Encourage non-members to join UNISON using the QR code included in this newsletter. The more members we have, the stronger our collective voice.

Branch organisers will be working intensively to support members and ensure we achieve the turnout required. This ballot is a key part of our wider campaign to secure an improved pay offer.



After more than a decade of pay cuts in real terms—amounting to over 25% since 2010—members have made it clear: enough is enough. Fair pay now.

*In Knowsley, this includes Knowsley Council and local authority schools such as special and community schools. The following academy trusts are also included: Deans Trust, Heath Family Trust, Rowan Learning Trust, Rainbow Academy, Wade Deacon Trust, LDST, and Vantage.



WINNING IN UNISON

Already 2026 has proven that when UNISON members in Knowsley stand together they continue to win improvements to their working lives. **TOGETHER we ARE STONGER!**

So far this year Knowsley UNISON members have won...



All Social Workers to have their registration fees paid. The first council in the Liverpool City Region to agree this.

As a result, council has agreed that all roles requiring a professional body registration will also be paid by the employer – finer details on this are still being worked on.

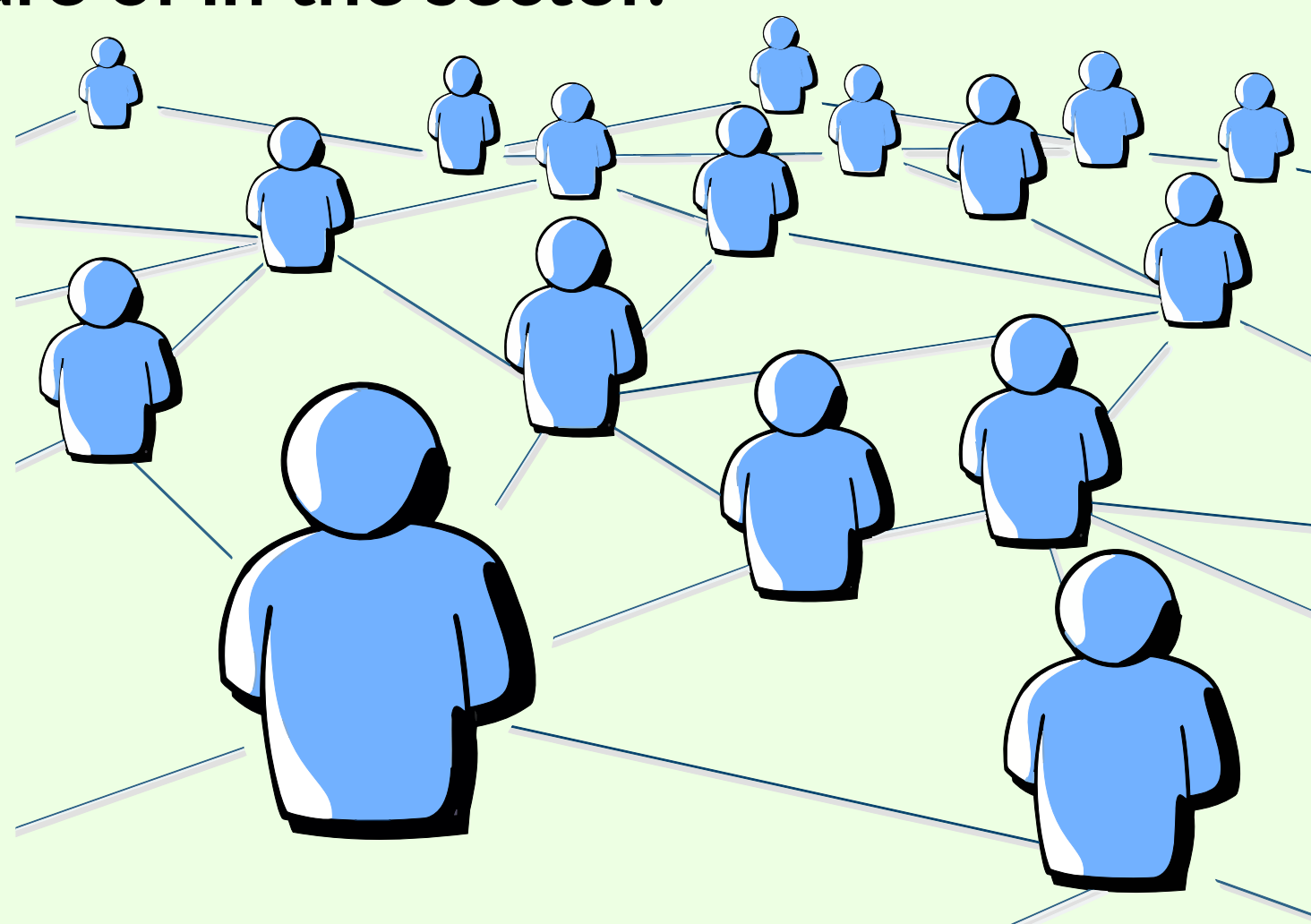


Increase in stand by allowance in line with last year's pay rise for school site managers.



4% pay rise for Livv Housing workers agreed – the highest settlement we are aware of in the sector.

Membership growth rate already exceeding the regional target
At least 5 new trained and active workplace representatives.



Our new Young Members Officer elected in Erin Oliver!

As the largest trade union in Knowsley we can continue this success, if we all play our part and continue to grow our union, by speaking to colleagues, friends and family and making sure they're a part of it to!



Time is Running Out for Your Equal Pay Claim

All members working in Knowsley Council and Volair must be assessed for a potential claim –regardless of grade, job title, or gender. Everyone could be affected, so it's vital that no one misses out.

We now have less than two months to complete all assessments.



What You Need to Do Now

To ensure your claim can be properly considered, please complete the following steps as soon as possible:

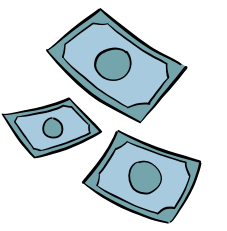
1. Complete the Equal Pay form
2. If you haven't already done so, fill in the Equal Pay link that has been emailed to you.
3. Complete the follow-up electronic form
4. After submitting the initial information, you will be sent a second electronic form. This must also be completed to finalise your assessment.



If you have already completed both steps, please encourage your colleagues to do the same.

Non-members can still join UNISON today and receive representation on this issue.

Failure to complete these steps in time could mean missing out on compensation that you may be entitled to.



Don't delay—make sure your claim is submitted.



School Support Staff Pay & Grading – Have Your Say

School support staff are encouraged to complete our survey, which has been sent to members' email addresses, to help strengthen the case for fair pay and proper grading.

Your responses will support claims for:

- Pay reviews
- Updated job descriptions
- Improvements to health & safety



Too many roles don't reflect the work you actually do. This survey helps us gather the evidence needed to challenge that.

Check your email, complete the survey, and encourage your colleagues to do the same.

The more members who take part, the stronger our voice.

GET ACTIVE!

Knowsley UNISON can only win with active members on the ground identifying issues and campaigning to win.

Could you be a Workplace Contact or a Rep? Register your interest by contacting the branch.



'A union isn't an outside organisation that comes in to help you, a union is YOU and your colleagues coming together to empower each other as a collective. And trust us, that's way more powerful!'