

inclusivelearning

e-bulletin/November 2017

Hello.

You've become a learning rep. Congratulations! But where do you go for help? Anything new can be daunting but you have a legal right to time off to develop learning in your workplace and we are here to help you find your feet and build your confidence in the new role.

We might be able to help run your first networking meeting, plan your first workshop or help you prepare to talk to your employer about learning agreements. And don't forget, we also have **Kickstart** funding to help you.

So good luck! **Oreleo Du Cran** and **Jon Tennison** can help you, along with **Learning and Organising Services** and our regional learning teams, so welcome and let's skill up the nations.



JESS HURD/REPORTDIGITAL.CO.UK

Martin Russo, Inclusive Learning Project Manager

NEW FLYER TO PROMOTE THE ORGANISING SPACE

We have produced a new flyer to promote the Organising Space, UNISON's secure social learning microsite, where ULRs can connect with other activists and with UNISON staff.

The Organising Space enables UNISON activists to:

- share ideas, documents and useful information;
- keep in touch with each other on what's happening in their workplaces/local areas;
- meet colleagues working on similar elements of the workplace learning agenda;
- keep up to date with national policies and initiatives that impact on union learning.

The Organising Space has two sections:

- Communities, where you can ask questions, keep updated and network with other ULRs from across the country. There is a chat called 'Organising through Learning' that's dedicated to discussing issues specific to trade union learning.
- Resources, where you can find useful websites, newsletters, surveys, posters and learning activities arranged under several headings. There's a tile called 'Learning and Development' where you can find particularly useful for ULRs.

To access the Organising Space, you will need an account at my.UNISON (visit www.unison.org.uk/my-unison/ to register). Once you have set up your account, you can log on at organisingpace.unison.org.uk.

You can download the new flyer at: bit.ly/2h6SpT0

For further information contact: 020 7121 5116



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Skills workshop

More than half a dozen cleaning and catering staff working for ISS Facility Services at Ipswich Hospital took part in a very successful Your skills your future workshop, arranged by members of UNISON's regional and national learning team.

The participants had all expressed interest in the workshop by completing learning and development forms during a UNISON walkabout on site this summer as part of a branch recruitment day.

ISS Facility Services Manager Russell Sherry organised release time so staff could take part, says National and Learning and Development Organiser Oreleo Du Cran, who helped organise the course with his regional counterpart Emily Sole and Regional Education Officer Cheryl Godber.

"The day went really well and we got good feedback on the evaluation forms," says ULF Project Manager Martin Russo, who delivered the course. "We have made a short film about the day that shows the potential for building partnerships with private sector companies working in the public services."



Maths workout

UNISON learning reps Jane Eyre and Bev Herring organised a numeracy day at Blackpool Victoria Hospital as part of unionlearn's #mathsworkout week last month, in their latest step to embed maths at the hospital.

North West Learning Organiser Tom Jenkins delivered a Fun With Numbers workshop to around 50 newly qualified nurses, testing their skills with a range of activities from a celebrity age quiz to a drug calculations workout.

Sally Hilton and Hannah Cowan from National Numeracy discussed cultural attitudes to maths with the nurses before guiding them through the online Numeracy Challenge to discover who had good everyday numeracy skills.

And the Numeracy Champions onsite staffed a lunchtime stall where they encouraged a wide range of their co-workers to take a maths teaser quiz.

"The stall at lunchtime was a great success with around 70 members of staff taking the quiz. We are looking forward to more of these days and promoting numeracy further within the Trust," Jane says.



Women's network

A group of women members who first met when they took part in UNISON's Power to be you confidence-building workshop in Lincoln last year are continuing to meet to support each other.

"There was a really supportive environment on the course, so I suggested we all meet up afterwards, and now a few of us continue to meet every six weeks or so," explains Helena Mair, who was working for the British Heart Foundation (BHF) at the time.

The regular meetings with participants have helped give Helena the confidence to take the risk of leaving her BHF job to become senior case worker for new Lincoln MP Karen Lee, who had originally organised the course while still a UNISON learning rep before she was elected.

Rachel Wakefield, who works as a clinical leader in the NHS in Cambridge, says the informal peer support has been valuable. "We have been able to apply what we learned on the course to our lives," she says.

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