

inclusivelearning

e-bulletin/March 2018

Hello.

Thank you all (and this extends to all the branch-based secondments, regional and national teams) for delivering outstanding activities for this year's 'Inclusive Learning' project.

Our priorities for the next project, starting next month, include developing and delivering on maths and English skills, digital skills and apprentices and traineeships.

We would also like to thank our administrators Norma Clarke and Katie Addison for ensuring we have a clear picture of all the learning activities across the country to report.

Our learner record form is the most important document for the project as without it, we could not demonstrate, evidence or qualify how we support learning in the public sector.



JESS HURD/REPORTDIGITAL.CO.UK

Martin Russo, Inclusive Learning Project Manager

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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF LEARNING IN UNISON

More than 70 UNISON learning activists and national and regional learning staff joined together to celebrate the power of the ULR at this year's learning conference at UNISON Centre last month.

In their keynote addresses, both General Secretary Dave Prentis and Assistant General Secretary Roger McKenzie highlighted the huge changes in the world of work since the formation of the union, while TUC Senior Policy Officer Tim Page set out the opportunities of the fourth industrial revolution.

Poole Local Government Branch apprentices Freya Kendall and Nick Hillman explained how they run the Apprentice Learning Network at the council and are job-sharing the role of young members' officer in the branch.

Other key speakers included Genevieve Clarke from The Reading Agency and Sally Hilton from National Numeracy.

Ahead of the 25th anniversary of the formation of UNISON in July, the one-day event finished with the presentation of commemorative certificates to 25 ULRs who have made a difference to their members.

Assistant Education Officer Kathleen Jowitt launched the Learning and Organising Services 25th anniversary writing competition at the event. There is still time for members to submit their entries, which must be no more than 1,500 words on the theme of 'Learning: past, present, future'. For full details and an entry form, click here:

<https://learning.unison.org.uk/writing-competition-2018/>

You can watch a short video about the day, including interviews with some of the participants about why they became involved in union learning and what they have been able to do for their members, on the LAOS YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/akMkOMxe-aQ>

For further information contact: 020 7121 5116



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Speaking out

Luton & Dunstable Hospital Branch Young Members' Officer Shipha Begum credits a UNISON confidence course with giving her the courage to move a motion at this year's National Black Members' Conference (NBMC) in January.

The young women's confidence course was the very first course Shipha took after joining the union at Luton & Dunstable University Hospital, where she works as a Biomedical Support Worker.

What Shipha learned on the course came in very handy when she was elected to move what would turn out to be the first item of business at NBMC.

"Had I not gone on the confidence skills course, I wouldn't have had the courage in the first place to even think about speaking in front of a crowd," Shipha says.

"When it came to delivering the speech I was very nervous! But I'd read through it plenty of times and knew what I was saying. I had learnt to take pauses when speaking, not to speak too fast and rush through it (which I tend to do when I'm nervous) and most of all to have fun!"



Poole network

Twenty apprentices at The Borough of Poole learned about looking after their mental health and well-being at the latest meeting of the local authority's self-organised Apprentices Learning Network.

"We asked the apprentices what kind of training they wanted and a surprising amount of them came back and said 'mental health and well-being,' including a lot of the male ones, which was quite an eye-opener," says Nick Hillman, a taxation and billing apprentice who jointly organises the network with Freya Kendall, a marketing apprentice for Skills & Learning Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole (Adult Learning).

"This was the third meeting of the network that we have organised and it was probably our best-attended: everyone was really happy that they had been able to ask for some training and then got it through this joint venture of UNISON and HR."

At the session, a tutor from Skills & Learning Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole spoke about the importance of looking after mental health and stayed for one-to-ones with apprentices afterwards.



#DMUreads launch

UNISON learning reps at De Montfort University launched their new nine-month programme of events to promote reading for pleasure for all staff with an event addressed by renowned poet, musician and activist Benjamin Zephaniah last month.

#DMUreads is modelled on the Reading Ahead challenge, which ULRs have run with great success in the past. But the big difference is that participants can read and review as many titles as they like.

"When I got expelled from school at the age of 13, the teacher said to me, 'You're going to end up dead or doing a life sentence'," Benjamin recalled at the launch in the Campus Centre Atrium.

"I really believe that if I didn't discover reading and writing, that probably would have happened to me."

As well as addressing the launch, Benjamin mingled with the staff afterwards. "Benjamin was superb: I sat down afterwards and I thought, 'I couldn't have had anyone better to do the launch'," says ULR Andrew Jennison.

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