

# inclusivelearning

e-bulletin/September 2018

# Hello.

With autumn on the horizon, many of our members will be thinking about whether to try some learning during the darker months. Some will be thinking about traditional routes like college courses, which we can signpost them to, but in this month's edition we also highlight other routes, such as UNISON's online learning partnership with e-Careers.

Congratulations to Andrea Hoskins, one of our learners about to gain accreditation as a counsellor, whose story is highlighted below.



JESS HURD/REPORTDIGITAL.CO.UK

**Martin Russo, Inclusive Learning Project Manager**

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## NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH E-CAREERS MAKES ONLINE LEARNING EASIER – AND CHEAPER

You can gain a range of professional qualifications and develop your skills online thanks to UNISON's partnership with leading e-learning provider e-Careers – and get 10 per cent off as a UNISON member.

UNISON has partnered with e-Careers as part of the union's aim to pioneer technology and new learning methodologies that can help members access an exciting range of e-learning courses.

The range is extensive: in the 'leadership and management' section, there are courses on assertiveness, communication, public speaking,

conflict management and time management. The 'short business courses' section includes active listening, bullying, diversity, emotional intelligence and networking. And the 'teaching and childcare section' includes a range of courses aimed at helping teaching assistants develop their careers.

You can enrol and benefit from any of these courses, which can be studied anytime, anywhere, online, and as a UNISON member you will receive a 10 per cent discount on the course fees when you logon at **<https://ecareers.unison.org.uk/>** and enter the code '**UNISON10**'.

**For further information contact: 020 7121 5116**



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## Schools skills

100 schools staff in five of the six counties that make up the Eastern region improved their skills at a series of UNISON/Open University (OU) summer term workshops that also encouraged new activists to come forward.

Three of the workshops covered managing difficult behaviour in the classroom, one looked at autism awareness and workplace stress and the last examined how to help children from disadvantaged backgrounds to maximise their attainment.

The staff came from 10 different branches and work for 50-plus different employers in Essex, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.

The project was designed by Regional Organiser Tracey Sparkes and delivered by the Fighting Fund Organisers who have been organising in schools in the region over the past year.

Overall, two stewards, one potential ULR and a number of workplace contacts were all identified to help spread the UNISON message to their colleagues.

"Overall, the feedback was very positive: the members who attended got a lot out of the workshops," Tracey says.



## Career change

Since taking a half-day counselling skills workshop through Bridges to Learning three years ago, Andrea Hoskins has secured a series of counselling qualifications and is all set to gain full professional accreditation.

After starting as a medical secretary at Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust in 2013, Andrea had recently moved to the newly-formed children's crisis team when she enrolled on the workshop.

Encouraged by ULR Janice Featherstone, Andrea then enrolled onto a Level 1 course in well-being, a Level 2 in mental health awareness and a Level 3 in counselling skills – all through distance learning on top of her full-time job. When she completes Level 5 Advanced Diploma in Integrative Counselling shortly, she will be accredited to practise.

"Janice has always kept an eye on me, sending an email as soon as she's spotted courses or workshops that she thinks I'd be interested in and that's helped spur me on to do the next thing," Andrea says.



## Dementia action

Merseylearn's Norman Hunter delivered a Dementia Friends information session last month for Liverpool City Region Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram and his office team, to help them fulfil their pledge of building a dementia-friendly city.

Norman, who is a Dementia Friends Champion trained by the Alzheimer's Society, used the session to examine what dementia is and how to support people living with the condition, helped by contributions from Liverpool Dementia Action members Tommy Dunne and Paul Hitchmough, who are both living with dementia.

Dementia Friends is designed to help people learn more about dementia and how they can help, by making their workplace dementia-friendly or visiting someone they know living with dementia.

The Alzheimer's Society has produced an employers' guide that sets out the steps they can take to support employees, clients and customers. <https://bit.ly/2PIY8zS>

To help branches improve the world of work for people living with dementia, UNISON and the Open University organise one-day CPD Dementia Awareness sessions across the country. Contact your regional education team for more information.

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