

inclusivelearning

e-bulletin/December 2018

Hello.

In this edition, we get the full picture of learning, whether it is taking your first steps as a union learning representative or, as an experienced ULR, running a series of workshops and delivering bespoke and diverse activities such as a Reading Ahead or a Power to be you confidence-building course.

Learning often delivers unexpected results, including debunking perceptions of what a trade union is today. It can help empower and equip not just the rep but a whole group of learners and employers – and that can lead towards a brighter future of learning for all.



JESS HURD/REPORTDIGITAL.CO.UK

Martin Russo, Inclusive Learning Project Manager

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HELP US HELP YOU WITH OUR SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE SURVEY

We are carrying out a survey to find out how you feel about your current level of skills and what skills you think you would want for the future. This will help us to develop future training courses to support you in your workplaces.

This quick survey takes only 15 minutes to complete. And there are no wrong answers: we simply want to hear your views.

As a thank you for taking the time to complete

the survey, we will enter your name in a prize draw in which you'll have the chance to win an all expenses paid weekend trip to Croyde Bay, Devon or Love2Shop vouchers worth £200 and £100.

To complete the survey, click **here**.

If you would prefer to complete a hard copy of the survey, please email us and we will send a printout to you. Please email:

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Confidence boost

More than a dozen women members of Southampton District Branch boosted their self-confidence on another successful Power to be you one-day workshop in the Civic Centre in October.

Delivered by lay tutor Julia O’Connell from the neighbouring Isle of Wight Local Government Branch, the workshop focused on: improving self-esteem; communicating with confidence; and boosting confidence and assertiveness.

The group work showed participants how many of them faced similar issues in their different workplaces.

In their feedback, learners praised Julia for adapting her pace to the needs of participants and identified how the group work enabled them to examine issues in their workplaces.

“From this course, I have had some members asking if there were any other courses they could attend, one asking about becoming a union learning rep and one also asked if UNISON did anything on nurses’ training – which is why membership learning is so important,” says Branch Lifelong Learning Coordinator / Education Officer Martin Merritt.



ULR u-turn

A Southampton City Council worker who used to think she opposed trade unions has become an active ULR over the past year after a life-changing conversation with Lifelong Learning Coordinator Martin Merritt.

Julie Harris had a low opinion of trade unions when she started work at the local authority 16 years ago. The ideas she’d inherited from her parents had been confirmed by the negativity of TV news coverage of union issues.

But after discussing work-related issues with Martin just over a year ago, Julie decided first to join the UNISON branch and then become active as a ULR.

“Training to become a rep is challenging but it certainly opens up the mind and leads you in a different direction,” Julie says.

“Then comes the time to help other people – whether they are work colleagues or from a different line of work: you can encourage them to enhance their own training and understanding within UNISON.”



Reading Ahead

After helping a number of colleagues to successfully complete the Reading Ahead challenge this year, Southampton ULR Emma Nand is planning to roll out the initiative across more housing offices at the council in the new year.

Emma has successfully applied for a Kickstart grant from Learning and Organising Services to cover the cost of buying more Quick Reads and other novels, official Reading Ahead merchandise and refreshments for lunch and learn sessions.

After completing her ULR training a year ago, Emma became one of four learning reps in the branch, promoting learning activities, finding out what courses colleagues are interested in and encouraging people to join UNISON.

While Reading Ahead has proved particularly popular, it’s just one strand of the learning work underway in the branch.

In the past year, Emma has helped organise a lunch and learn course on stress in the workplace and a Healthy Easting Midweek Meals for Less all-day event with Solent University.

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