

inclusivelearning

e-bulletin/September 2019

Hello.

This month's edition clearly highlights how new skills, experiences and resources can help steer a learner towards a better future and quality of life.

And you can help shape the future of learning at our next ULR conference on Wednesday 25 September. Sign up here.

Join our next webinar on Monday 16 September 2019, 1pm–1:45pm, to explore how delivering functional skills can improve the lives of millions of public sector workers: <https://learning.unison.org.uk/events/functional-skills-webinar/>



JESS HURD/REPORTDIGITAL.CO.UK

Martin Russo, Inclusive Learning Project Manager

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CAN YOU HELP DEVELOP THE NATIONAL RETRAINING SCHEME'S NEW DIGITAL SERVICE?

The government is looking for volunteers in Liverpool City Region, the West Midlands and the north-east to help develop Get Help to Retrain, the digital skills service part of the new National Retraining Scheme (NRS), backed by the TUC and the CBI.

The NRS is prioritising support for adults aged 24+, with a qualification below degree level, and earning below a specified salary threshold whose jobs are at risk as the jobs market changes. Get Help to Retrain is designed to help them identify their existing skills, explore local job opportunities and identify where to gain the skills they need.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help them test the latest version of the service through:

- one-hour face-to-face sessions (initial interview and run through of the service)
- 20-minute online checking of the service (including an online questionnaire).

Participants in the face-to-face sessions will be compensated £40 for taking part.

If you live or work in the Liverpool City Region, the West Midlands or the north-east and are interested in taking part in either the face-to-face or online sessions, please email: k.shaw@unison.co.uk

For further information contact: 020 7121 5116



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Mentoring apprentices

UNISON learning rep Vilpa Lillie has used her mentoring skills to help two apprentices in her department at energy provider E.ON overcome coursework problems and mental health issues.

When Anneta Johnson and Joshua Proctor joined Vilpa's complaints team in January, she immediately noticed their confidence was very low.

So she offered to mentor them, helping them clear the backlog of their coursework, securing them the study time they were entitled to and encouraging them to address their mental health issues.

As a result, Anneta has enrolled on UNISON's Build Your Confidence course in September in Lincoln, to help gain the skills she needs to deliver a presentation of her coursework this autumn, as part of completing her Level 2 Customer Service apprenticeship.

And Joshua has taken on the branch roles of young members' officer and LGBT members' officer, and is keen to move on to a Level 3 Team Leader apprenticeship once he completes his Level 2.



Managing conflict

More than 50 Blackpool Council staff feel more secure at work now that they have learned the skills they need to manage aggressive behaviour by service users, thanks to five half-day workshops run by the regional learning and organising team.

After a couple of incidents in the municipal offices earlier this year, Blackpool LG Branch stepped in to review health and safety procedures with the employer and looked at what could be improved to improve members' safety at work.

The regional learning and organising team was then able to negotiate co-funded workshops with the employer, which looked at managing aggression and showed participants how they could act to de-escalate situations.

"The five one-day workshops showcased what UNISON can provide for members on the back of its strength and influence in the workplace," says North West Learning and Development Organiser Lyndsey Marchant.

"The feedback said staff now felt more secure knowing what to do if there were any problems with aggression."



Schools skills

Schools staff can prepare for the new academic year with the help of UNISON's Skills for Schools website, the updated and relaunched online guide to careers, training and development for support staff in schools.

Packed with useful information, practical advice and real-life stories of schools staff, the site is designed both to help members develop in their current role or explore routes into other roles and to help people interested in working in schools find out more about potential pathways.

"The core of the site remains the same, so you can still find a job profile for every role in schools, but we have added new elements such as the professional standards for different roles, which are not easy to find elsewhere," explains Education & Children's Services National Officer Joanna Parry.

There is also a bespoke link to the National Numeracy Challenge, to help schools staff assess their numeracy skills in order to develop them.

Visit: www.skillsforschools.org.uk

For further information contact: 020 7121 5116



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