

inclusivelearning

e-bulletin/January 2018

Hello.

Happy New Year! There's no better time to start promoting learning in the workplace than now. Here are some of our highlights from last year: bit.ly/2IHSb2T

We are keen to refresh contact with any learning reps, particularly in the London and South East regions. Please contact **Oreleo Du Cran** and **Jon Tennison**.

Planning for Learning at Work Week? It runs from 14th – 20th May this year and is themed around 'networked for learning.' Our Kickstart funding can help.

Looking forward to another positive and inspiring year of learning!



JESS HURD/REPORTDIGITAL.CO.UK

Martin Russo, Inclusive Learning Project Manager

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SPREADING THE NEWS

Learning and Organising Services organised a successful series of events in October and November detailing the opportunities and the challenges created by the government's new Apprenticeship Levy.

Held in the Northern, South West, West Midlands and Yorkshire and Humberside regions, the events brought together branch activists, apprentices and regional officers to look in detail at the operation of the scheme.

The briefings covered the operation of the Levy; capitalising on the opportunities and tackling

the challenges for branches and members; and examples of successful negotiation and support around apprenticeships.

National Apprenticeship Week this year runs from Monday 5 to Friday 9 March, and LAOS will be helping branches get involved in the promotion of apprenticeship opportunities to coincide with the campaign.

In the meantime, you can learn more about the operation of the Levy, and other apprenticeship issues, by completing our e-note. Get started at: e-learning.unison.org.uk/login/index.php

SILVER SUCCESS

Newcastle City Branch, working in partnership with City Library and City Learning, has won the silver award from The Reading Agency for supporting more than 130 readers to complete the Reading Ahead challenge.

The silver award is given to organisations that help between 100 and 149 people read and review six different titles.

"This is the second year running that we have achieved a silver award, this year with an increase of 28 per cent of participants completing the challenge," says City Branch Lifelong Learning Coordinator Evan Peck.

For further information contact: 020 7121 5116



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Moving on

Twenty-two Black members in the South-West are implementing action plans in their branches across the region after a successful brand new leadership course in Bristol at the end of last year.

The course was designed to engage Black members across the region, both from cities with significant Black populations such as Bristol, Swindon and Gloucester and from rural communities, where there is greater isolation.

Speakers included UNISON Assistant General Secretary Roger McKenzie and Wolverhampton South West MP Eleanor Smith, the former UNISON activist who became the first MP from an African-Caribbean background to represent a West Midlands constituency in this year's general election.

"Overall the weekend was worthwhile," commented Wiltshire Police Black Members' Rep Mamata Rai. "It was a great experience – a great way of networking, sharing ideas and knowledge and meeting new people."

Regional Black members' group chair Georgia Ramsay was equally positive. "The course gave a lot of people confidence and knowledge and they seemed to love it," she said.



All together

UNISON celebrated its successful partnerships with The Open University (OU) and the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) with a special event at UNISON Centre at the end of last year.

Speakers from all three organisations plus shadow education secretary (and former UNISON activist) Angela Rayner set out how both partnerships have helped UNISON members achieve objectives they never would have thought possible before.

Angela described how the UNISON-OU partnership had helped Stockport Council home care workers like her progress their careers through learning.

"We created opportunities for women like me to become assistant practitioners by getting Foundation degrees, which transformed that group of workers and gave them a sense of purpose and a sense of wellbeing," she said.

After speeches by OU Vice-Chancellor Peter Horrocks and Pro Vice-Chancellor Hazel Rymer, WEA Chief Executive Ruth Spellman, UNISON Assistant General Secretary Roger McKenzie and Head of Learning and Organising Services Teresa Donegan, Roger signed renewed Memoranda of Understanding with the OU and the WEA.



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Getting on

Almost 100 people tried at least one skills check during a very successful Get On At Work (GoaW) event for staff at Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust towards the end of last year.

Held at Trent Vineyard in Nottingham, the November event was sponsored by UNISON, with Nottingham College (which works closely with the Trust and the UNISON branch) acting as the supporting learning provider.

Nottingham College is following up the two-thirds of the participants who asked for more information about studying for a functional skills qualification after completing their skills checks.

In all, 73 maths tests and 67 English tests were completed by a total of 98 participants, 33 of whom were UNISON members – indicating the event's success at engaging potential learners beyond those who are already members of the union.

Regional Learning and Development Organiser Gavin McCann with the help of two colleagues provided information and advice throughout the day and used the opportunity to promote the benefits of UNISON membership.

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