

Campaigning to Protect Pre-School Provision and Stop Redundancies

Towards the end of the last academic year and the start of this one UNISON members facing redundancy have been contacting us.

This is particularly the case in the Wednesbury area where St.John's CofE Primary Academy plans to close their nursery provision, and Moorlands Primary School were planning to close their playgroup because of the building used by the playgroup had been condemned.

Bright Futures

In addition, Bright Futures Daycare at Hateley Heath is planning to close at Christmas with the loss of 52 childcare places.

Moorlands Playgroup parents, supported by Sandwell UNISON, led the way in campaigning against the planned closure. Parents organised a petition and press release. They lobbied Councillors and their picture hit the local press. The pressure they created resulted in Sandwell's Cabinet Councillor for Children's, Simon Hackett, intervening to find a solution, resulting in the redundancies being withdrawn.

Bright Futures Daycare Parents also started a petition and contacted Councillors. Again, Sandwell UNISON supported parents and a meeting was arranged with Cllr Simon Hackett. Officers proposing the redundancies created outrage when they blamed the budget deficit on 'over-inflated salaries of staff'. It is clear that plans to privatise this service are about driving down wages. At the time of writing the campaign continues.

UNISON will continue to support any campaigns that protect pre-school provision and challenge any redundancy proposals of support staff in schools.

If the austerity cuts are affecting your school and you face restructures, redundancies or variations to contracts – get in touch straight away. Simply call UNISON on 0121 569 5996.

HAVS

Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome

HAVS causes symptoms in the fingers, hands and arms from using vibrating tools. It used to be known as vibration white finger.

If you are diagnosed with HAVS, particularly from a check at work, and you believe the condition to be work related, you need to contact your union as well as obtain the appropriate medical help.

HAVS is an industrial disease and therefore you have the right to make a claim for an industrial injury award.

Don't suffer in silence without any compensation. Contact the Sandwell UNISON office on 0121 569 5996 if you are diagnosed with HAVS.



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