

Have you been called to a Sickness Stage 1 Meeting?

Being human beings at some point we all suffer from ill health. If you trigger the standard sickness targets you could find yourself under formal sickness procedures.

If you are called to any sickness stage meetings UNISON will help and represent you. We can do this more effectively if it is from stage 1 and we urge all our members to contact us as soon as they receive any correspondence inviting them to a formal meeting.

Simply contact UNISON on 0121 569 5996.

Concern and Request in Children's Services

Members have signed a statement of concern stating they believe that they are being asked to practice unsafely. This is a product of a staffing crisis which is seeing the number of expensive agency staff rocket.

UNISON and GMB have presented a 12-point list of requests to management to solve this crisis. They include a cap on caseloads and the introduction of a market supplement for social workers of £4,000. We will report on managements response.



Good value and great values from a trusted insurer LV=

UNISON members have been enjoying exclusive discounts on **LV= Car and Breakdown insurance** for many years. LV=, the UK's largest friendly society with over five million members and customers, has been awarded Which? Insurance Provider of the Year 2017.

The UNISON approved Car insurance as well as the comprehensive and deluxe levels of Breakdown cover are all Defaqto five star rated to give you peace of mind.

To make the most of your membership give us a call or go online. Call **0800 756 8161** or visit www.LV.com/UNISON

Lines are open Mon- Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm

Calls may be recorded. For Text Phone: first dial 18001

Sign the petition to scrap the NAAS

The government is pressing ahead with its plans to introduce the National Assessment and Accreditation System (NAAS) that compels children and family social workers to take a test on their skills.

The assessment is set to cost a reported £23million and is viewed by many as a waste of social workers time and public money.

The NAAS is being introduced into 31 councils next year (not Sandwell) before being rolled out around the country.

UNISON nationally is asking children's social workers to sign the online petition below.

<https://action.unison.org.uk/page/10353/petition/1>

If you think the NAAS is an ass, sign it.

Changed Your Home Address?

If you have moved home recently please make sure you tell us you have moved so that we can mail you if we need to. Simply email sandwellunison@btconnect.com with any new details. Thank you.



Join UNISON – Sandwell's biggest trade union
Call 0121 569 5996 for a membership form
Or go online – www.unison.co.uk