

UNITY



Devon County Branch
July 2008

TWO DAYS OF STRIKE ACTION – VOTED FOR BY YOU!!!!

Schools staff, social workers, clerks, librarians – just a few of the groups of UNISON members who have voted to take strike action over the derisory 2.45% pay rise on offer.



Strike Action is planned for July 16th and 17th – with further days of action to follow. UNISON is happy to go back to the negotiating table – but this is a clear message from thousands of low paid council workers, providing essential services for the citizens of Devon that enough is enough – and this offer is certainly not enough.

UNISON and UNITE members have both voted in favour of strike action instead of accepting this insulting below inflation pay offer.

UNISON IS ASKING FOR 6% OR £500 – WHICHEVER IS THE GREATER.

Devon County UNISON is very aware of the financial impact strike action can have on members – if by taking strike action and being active on the picket lines, you may be entitled to financial assistance – log on to www.devoncountyunison.org.uk for further details or call the Branch Office on 01392 382530.

JUST A THOUGHT...

[Gaius Petronius Arbiter quotes](#) “We trained hard, but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form up into teams, we would be reorganized. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganizing; and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency, and demoralization.”

From circa 65 ad in the reign of Nero.

EXETER RESPECT FESTIVAL

Friday July 5 to Sunday July 13

This is Exeter City's annual celebration of diversity

There is something for everyone to enjoy, music, film, dance, workshops and poetry and they are being held in different venues throughout the city.

When is this happening? It starts on Friday July 5 and culminates in the Big Respect Weekender Friday July 11 to Sunday July 13.

UNISON South-West will be there and we would welcome any volunteers during the Festival. If you are able to help please contact the Branch Office 01392 382530

We look forward to seeing you there and having fun!

To find out more please check their website www.exeter-respect.org

UNISON Calls for Tighter Regulations To Protect Teaching Assistants And Pupils

UNISON, the UK's largest public sector union representing over 200,000 schools support staff is calling for tighter regulations on the use of teaching assistants in schools.

Speaking from the union's annual conference in Bournemouth, Christina McAnea, UNISON National Secretary for Education, said:

"Our members tell us they are often being asked to take on additional duties including taking whole classes. Many of them have not received the right training or support. Importantly, they are also not paid for these extra responsibilities.

"We are pushing the government and the employers to provide much tighter regulations and for these to be more closely monitored. The Government's wider agenda for extended services, personalised learning and targeting resources towards the most disadvantaged children, will all be put at risk if the lack of training, low pay and exploitation."

Rosemary Plummer, a teaching assistant and union rep from Islington, reported that more than 40 teaching assistants from a small area of London had told her they felt they were being asked to do more than they were qualified for.

"They're delivering maths, they're delivering literacy and marking work – that's a teacher's job ... they're being used as cut-price teachers," she said.

If you are being asked to do more than you are qualified for then please **let UNISON know via your workplace representative or contact the Schools Convenor Shirley-Anne Ludley on 07748397570.**