

NEWSLETTER UCU

University and College Union

Bulletin for Weston College UCU Prison Education Branch members

May 2024

New UCU Prison Education Campaign

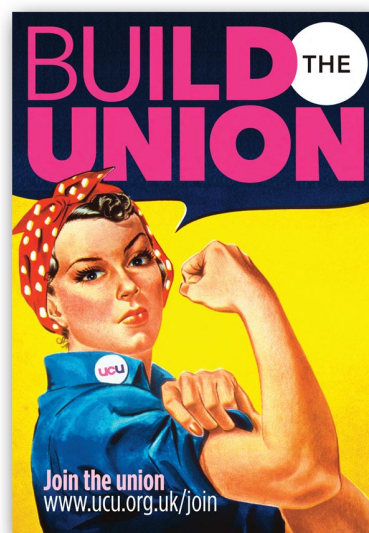
UCU is launching a major campaign to push for urgently needed changes in prison education. Despite you turning around the lives of learners, you are poorly-paid, have to deal with layers of contract compliance, poor CPD opportunities and unsustainable rates of attrition. The result is a loss of expertise, a narrow cost-driven curriculum, increased over-working and rising levels of attacks on staff.

The funding model is broken – diverting resources away from delivering truly meaningful education. The current PEF contract and the new PES contract fail learners and staff alike.

HM Treasury is still refusing to confirm the application of Fair New Deal for prison educators' pensions. Most prison educators work for an FE college. FE has been reclassified as part of the public sector and our members' pensions should be protected like other public sector workers.

Pay compares poorly with secondary schools and FE colleges despite similar qualifications needed to teach inside.

Prisons are not safe – with reduced numbers of prison officers and a risk to prison educators from the use of harmful substances in prisons. See overleaf what UCU is calling for.



www.ucu.org.uk/join

Recruit your colleagues

Please pass on this newsletter and encourage colleagues to join UCU:

www.ucu.org.uk/join

The more members we have the more we can achieve.

Keep Your Membership Details Updated

Please keep your UCU membership record up to date so you still qualify for all the benefits and we can contact you with updates:

<https://www.ucu.org.uk/ucumembership>

UCU is calling for:

A comprehensive review of the current operation of the Prison Education Framework

The PES to be overseen by the Department for Education and run as a national prison education service on a not-for-profit basis.

A comprehensive review of the recommendations from the Coates review to inform these current proposals

The implementation of the Joint Unions in Prisons Alliance recommendations and safer prisons

A national contract for prison education staff and professional respect and parity of esteem with FE

HM Treasury to confirm the application of Fair New Deal as a matter of urgency

More Reps Needed

To give yourselves a stronger local collective voice you need more reps. Are you interested in becoming a rep or health and safety rep (H&S covers excessive workloads and stress). If so please contact your local rep to discuss it. Training and support is provided.

Alternatively, if you are willing to become a UCU contact and distribute union materials please get in touch.

Membership Benefits

UCU is your collective voice both locally and nationally.

Trained reps help members with problems at work.

The opportunity to receive advice and support if you feel bullied, intimidated or discriminated against. You are not alone when you're part of your union.

UCU's legal scheme is backed by a firm of specialist solicitors

Free CPD courses

Counselling, support, financial assistance and more is available 24/7 through Education Support

For membership benefits: www.ucu.org.uk/ucuplus To join: www.ucu.org.uk/join

Subscription rates are banded according to how much you earn. Most members can reduce their subs by claiming tax relief: [UCU - How much does it cost to be a UCU member?](#)