

NEWSLETTER **UCU**

University and College Union

Bulletin for Novus UCU prison education members

June 2025



Prison Education Campaign

The “Unlocking Futures” campaign to push for urgent changes in prison education is a key priority for UCU. Prison educators change lives and deserve better pay and conditions

Full details are here:

[UCU - UCU prison educators: unlocking futures](#)

Campaign Demands

- A comprehensive review of the current operation of the Prison Education Service
- 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 (JUPA) 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 for pensions as a matter of urgency

Your Reps At UCU Congress

Your reps attended UCU Congress in Liverpool recently. A motion was carried which resolves: to continue organising and campaigning to secure a better future under PES; prioritise work on the New Fair Deal; continue the campaign for a single contract for prison educators; advocate for a wider curriculum; train all reps in the TUPE process.

A motion requesting changes to the UCU organisational structure to accommodate the fact that prison education branches are based in several UCU regions was remitted. It will now be considered by the NEC (National Executive Committee.)

New Prison Education Providers

An announcement will soon be made about which providers have been awarded the new contracts for prison education. Your union will keep in touch with you throughout the process and provide help where needed. All reps are being offered TUPE training which covers the rules when prisons transfer to different providers.

Build Your Union – Recruit A Colleague

Please share this newsletter and encourage your colleagues to join UCU. With changes in providers you need the strongest possible collective voice.

Membership Benefits

UCU is your collective voice both locally and nationally.

Reps, supported by full-time UCU staff, help members with problems at work.

Branch reps raise issues with your employer

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

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

To join: www.ucu.org.uk/join Membership benefits: www.ucu.org.uk/ucuplus

Subscription rates are banded according to how much you earn. Claiming tax relief reduces your subs: [UCU - How much does it cost to be a UCU member?](#)

Prison Education Reps Needed

Your branch reps are looking for more members willing to become reps and health and safety reps. Please get in touch if you are interested in either role and you don't already have these positions filled.

Contact Ronnie Kershaw, UCU national organiser rkershaw@ucu.org.uk