

December 2006



Keith Mallinson, NEC member - prison education says...

This year has yet again seen Prison ed members facing major upheavals and turmoil as OLASS 2 came into being. We are the only UCU members to have gone through so many transfers of employers and changes to our terms and conditions so often in the sector. Yet, in spite of this the last ALI report comments specifically on the improvements achieved in prison education recently. But we know that the bulk of this improvement is down to us, our hard work and commitment.

At the FEC- the Further Education Committee of the Union- I have raised the profile of prison education members and have had the full support of Jon Bryan- Chair of the Committee who makes sure that our issues are raised at this level of the Union. We need to make sure that our Union membership and organisation grows and improves. We need a rep in every education dept, we need Health and Safety reps we need Union Learning reps. So please make sure you publicise the work UCU does and encourage your colleagues to join the union and organise locally.

There is more change on the cards next year and we need to be properly organised to ensure that these new initiatives are not introduced at the expense of our terms and conditions of employment.

After OLASS2 ...the Next Steps

The Government has launched its latest plans for Learning and Skills to reduce reoffending. The Next Steps builds on the Green Paper published earlier this year. It is a joint initiative from the DfES, The Home Office and the Department for Work and Pensions. It is difficult to fault the aspirations of these new initiatives but members need to be aware that there will be changes in at least two regions next year. We will publish specific information as and when we find out the details.

The Education and Skills Select Committee questioned Ministers – Education and Home Office- on progress made since the Committee published its recommendations on prison education in 2005.

UCU made a short written submission to the committee- this can be found on the website www.ucu.org.uk

In order to be able to represent you, we need you to feed back information to us via your reps, regional office or directly to Christiane Ohsan, National Official email cohsan@ucu.org.uk