



Issue 319 13th - 19th September 2021

Social care reform debate

Reform of social care is to be a centrepiece of the Scottish Government's programme. This is to be welcomed as Covid has shown that the existing system is broken. No one who has examined the Scotland's care services (except perhaps the tax haven based owners of so many of our Care Homes) will believe that care can be improved without a serious effort to better the wages and conditions of the care workforce. So the promises of sectoral collective bargaining and embedding fair work practices should also be widely welcomed.

These welcome proposals do not mean that there aren't serious concerns over other elements of the proposed National Care Service - which (unlike the NHS) will not deliver care itself only commission and procure others to do so. The removal of vast swathes of responsibility from Local Government, the effective end of in house delivery of services - indeed an expressed bias against public sector delivery should prompt questions from MSPs. What is being proposed as a National Care Service will preside over a system where care is not provided as a social good - but a commodity delivered in a market. A market where the government will not even commit to for profit providers being subject to the most basic scrutiny of freedom of information.

Whilst there are some unequivocal goods within the Scottish Government's proposed care reforms - there are also areas where there are more questions than answers. Many of them around how the good intentions are to be translated into improvement on the ground. If a better social care system is to built these proposals will require not blanket approval or condemnation - but serious engagement and rigorous scrutiny.

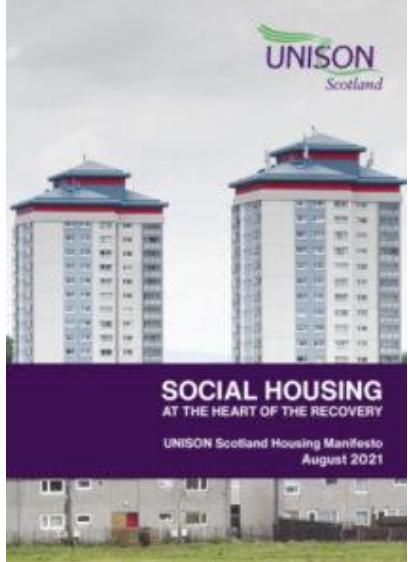


The graphic features a purple background with white text. On the left, it says 'VOTE YES FOR STRIKE ACTION' with a red ballot box icon containing a white 'X'. On the right, there is a photograph of two women in a kitchen; one is holding a plate of food. At the bottom, it says 'LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY BALLOT- 1st to 22nd September (10am)'.



Local government workers give verdict on latest pay

[This film](#) gives voice to UNISON members working in local government. They give their verdict on the latest pay offer, and explain how they have kept society going during the pandemic.



Social Housing at the Heart of Recovery – Our Housing Manifesto

During the pandemic we discovered that it is – in fact – possible for politicians to take radical action very quickly.

The same urgent political commitment is needed to end homelessness and rough sleeping permanently by building enough social homes of the right type and in the places that are needed. We have learnt the added value of social housing during a crisis: how it builds community resilience and protects the most vulnerable.

UNISON members in housing associations and councils played an outstanding role in feeding and caring for tenants in need. A similar response from private landlords is unimaginable. Investment in social housing must now be at the centre of the post-pandemic recovery.

Workplace Parking Licensing Consultation on Regulations & Guidance

General Secretary's Blog: Still in solidarity, two decades later

Save Our Care Homes - Public Demonstration Free · Edinburgh City Chambers - 14 September 2021 9:30am



Green UNISON Week
runs from 18 – 26
September

Everything you need to know
towards building for Saturday
6 November COP26
demonstrations [here](#).

Tom Waterson

PICK OF THE MEDIA

10/09/21 itspublicknowledge.info
The time is right to improve our access to information.

09/09/21 heraldscotland.com

Ministers spent £500,000 of public money on broken pledge over cheap state-owned energy for Scots poorest.

09/09/21 tuc.org.uk

TUC calls for urgent economic reset to tackle huge Covid class divide.

09/09/21 unison.org.uk

The great state pension rip-off.

07/09/21 stuc.org.uk

STUC welcomes parts of Scottish Government Programme for Government, but warns of funding shortage for social care and lack of credibility on public investment.

04/09/21 pioneerspost.com

Climate action 'not on the radar' of Scotland's social ventures – report.

03/09/21 largsandmillportnews.com

UNISON calls for end of compulsory jabs for care home staff.

29/08/21 heraldscotland.com

Scotland's Bus Crisis: Privatised service isn't working for passengers.



**Climate Adaptation in
the Workplace -
Workshop for Scottish
Trade Unionists
Thu, 16 September
10:00 – 13:00**

There for You impact report: A colourful, engaging report setting out how much of a positive difference UNISON's charity for members has made this year.



**Financial wellbeing for UNISON
members**

Join **There For You** on 28 September 2021 at 12:00pm–1:00pm for a free financial wellbeing webinar. Register [here](#).



Welcome to UNISON Scotland learning!

Here is our online education programme for July to December 2021. Build your skills with our national programme [UNISON Learning](#) - a whole range of courses for our members.

Coronavirus: your rights at work

Read our Q&A



UNISON - ALWAYS WITH YOU

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To take part in our consultations,
surveys and ballots, we need accurate
information: **your work, email & mobile.**

