

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Every day we all use the services provided by local government. Many people don't even notice them: we take them for granted.

The council elections on May 3 will bring a much-needed focus on the importance of local government and the essential services it provides.

Here are some key points from our UNISON Scotland manifesto *For Public Services and a Better Scotland* and some questions for you to put to your local candidates ahead of the elections.

Use your vote on May 3 and vote for candidates who stand up for public services.



FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND A BETTER SCOTLAND

UNISON Scotland

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PUBLIC WORKS

UNISON Scotland
Local Government
Summary Manifesto
May 2012

Download the full manifesto
www.unison-scotland.org.uk



CARE SERVICES

Care services are essential for the quality of life of Scotland's citizens. They support both the recipients of care and their carers. Despite the rhetoric about listening to users, care service models continue to be designed and imposed from above.

Plans for integration are at a range of stages across Scotland. Meanwhile private providers queue up to see what profits can be made - often disastrously, as the crisis created by Southern Cross showed.

This top down approach cannot bring about flexible and responsive services focused on meeting the needs of service users.

- Councils need a coherent strategy for care services to reverse cuts in funding, boost staffing levels and cut service charges.
- Users and staff should be directly involved in the design of care services.
- Privatisation should be halted and full cost recovery introduced for the voluntary sector.
- Procurement policies must ensure that social care provision is comprehensive and will maintain and improve the quality of services provided.
- Personalisation - direct payments should be at a level to ensure decent pay, holidays and training for care staff and to maintain quality care provision - not to reduce the amount of provision in the public and voluntary sectors.

- Registration - care services and staff should be fully regulated.
- Free personal care should be fully resourced and not reliant on the traditionally poorly-funded care sector, with more clarity in calculating its cost.



SOCIAL WORK

Excellent provided, publicly-funded social care services are an essential part of a caring and compassionate society.

Social work staff are expected to perform miracles by helping people to change their lives. But increasing levels of unemployment, homelessness and poverty place ever greater demands on services and staff are constantly overstretched.

- At the same time budgets are being cut, leading to real fears about the sustainability of service provision.
- Social work needs additional resources to meet challenges of increased demand.
- Staffing levels should be appropriate to meet the needs of communities and should be monitored by the inspection process.
- Guidelines must be based on need, not budgets, and should take account of safety issues.
- All employers should introduce effective workload management systems to ensure that tasks allocated to staff are manageable and allow sufficient time to meet the considerable demands placed upon them.
- Bureaucracy should be reduced to allow social workers to use their skills more appropriately.
- *Helping People Change Their Lives*, UNISON's manifesto for improving the way social workers carry out their duties in Scotland, should inform good practice.

**USE YOUR VOTE
FOR CANDIDATES WHO
STAND UP FOR
PUBLIC SERVICES
ON MAY 3**

QUESTIONS TO

- What would you do to ensure that social work staff have sufficient time and support to deal with their caseload?
- How can you ensure that the amount of Personalisation or Self Directed Payments are at a level for elderly or disabled people to purchase an adequate amount of care?

PUT TO CANDIDATES

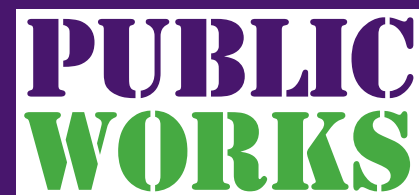
- What would you do to ensure Personal Assistants are treated fairly by people in receipt of Self Directed Care, e.g. by training them in employment rights, holidays and pension provision, etc.
- Would you introduce adequate workload management systems for social workers to ensure they had sufficient time and support to deal with their allocated caseload?
- How can you ensure continuity of care needs when social care budgets are being cut in both the council and the community and voluntary sector?



UNISON Scotland Manifesto for Social Care 2012



Public Works is UNISON Scotland's
campaign for public services.
For further information,
or to join UNISON,
call 0845 355 0845



www.unison-scotland.org.uk

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