

UNISON Direct 08000 857 857

Yorkshire Ambulance Branch

08/03/2019

**Article in National Magazine**

There has recently been an article published in the UNISON national magazine in which the Yorkshire Ambulance Branch Young Member Lead has been featured. This article was published by UNISON nationally, and although interviewed our branch Young Members Lead, we as a Branch were not consulted on its content prior to any publication.

The article is around how young members work in the Branches; how UNISON has helped them and the pressures they face as a young member in the workplace. As part of this our Young Member Lead was interviewed and made comment after speaking to other young members across all workplaces within Yorkshire Ambulance Service about their experiences within the service.

The way the article was worded has caused a great deal of concern for other members within the Branch, feeling that some of the wording was inappropriate in the context of the article.

UNISON Yorkshire Ambulance Branch prides itself on being a member led branch, and we are extremely proud of our diversity and inclusive culture within the Branch. I have spoken to Elliott our young Members Lead, and he is extremely upset at what has been written and how he has come across in the article. He is keen to point out that he values all his work colleagues’ efforts regardless of age, and never intended to cause such problems with the article.

As Branch Secretary I have also contacted UNISON National, and the editor of the publication to highlight our concerns. I am awaiting a reply but I would hope that this situation can be corrected quickly. In emailing the editor I have also voiced my concern over how such an article, that could easily be seen as having a negative connotation on other members, was allowed to be published, not only for the offence caused to other members but also the effect it has had on our Young Member lead.

Many thanks

Kev Fairfax

UNISON Branch Secretary

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