

## UNISON Weekly Update

### Violence at Work should never be 'part of the job'

UNISON recently undertook research with the Health Service Journal which showed an almost 10% increase in violent assaults against NHS staff between 2015/16 and 2016/17 in England, with a shocking 21% jump in the acute sector. Staff and patient safety needs to be paramount in the NHS and it can never be acceptable for staff to feel that regular assaults are simply 'part of the job'.

The government got rid of NHS Protect – the organisation responsible for staff safety – in 2017. The body that replaced it – the NHS Counter Fraud Authority – concentrates solely on tackling fraud, so there is now no central government body collating data on violent assaults against staff.

It's no accident that in trusts where pressure seems most extreme – where there are huge financial deficits or serious struggles to meet targets – there has been the steepest rise in the number of attacks. The government must make staff safety a priority and make sure that there is an organisation that has the remit for staff safety nationally. This must include the collection of data on assaults so that NHS organisations can compare their figures with others.

UNISON continues to fight for fair funding for the NHS to ensure that staff can do their jobs safely and that patient care does not suffer. UNISON continues to lead the campaign for the implementation of the Assaults Against Emergency Service Workers Bill which will lead to greater prosecution of people who assault NHS staff.

### UNISON Financial Advice with Lighthouse

Lighthouse Financial advice can help you resolve financial issues whatever your circumstances or stage in life, from buying your first home and protecting your family, to boosting your pension and paying for long-term care. The advice they provide is practical, affordable and specific to you and could improve your financial situation.

All UNISON members are eligible for a complimentary financial review which can take place at home, over the phone or at work.

Call 08000 85 85 90 or email [appointments@lighthousefa.co.uk](mailto:appointments@lighthousefa.co.uk) to arrange a complimentary, no obligation appointment with one of their professional financial advisers.

**time to change**

let's end mental health discrimination

What proportion of people with mental health problems believe that workplace stress contributed to their illness?

A. 17%

B. 33%

C. 66%

(The answer is in the bottom left of the box below)

Want to speak in confidence about mental health? Contact the UNISON Mental Health Lead Adrian van Toren by emailing [adrian.van-toren@nhs.net](mailto:adrian.van-toren@nhs.net)

### Stay in Touch – and get all the Latest News and Notices

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