

UNISON Weekly Update

Giving LGBT the + Factor

Moving the first motion in a group debate that spanned the weekend at UNISON’s national LGBT conference in Harrogate, Eileen Best for the national committee explained that, after research, an organising subcommittee had decided to begin the process of changing the group’s name to LGBT+.

“We believe it is time to change and will make us more welcoming to future members,” she said.

Adding the ‘+’ sign to LGBT would take into account the way in which people identify in different ways – such as viewing themselves as ‘queer’ rather than LG or B – but “it does not change the remit of this group”.

Bev Miller, on behalf of the Black LGBT caucus, said that adding the ‘+’ will help to make the group more inclusive to people who do not identify with words that are predominantly white western.

James Anthony told delegates that “a name is what we say to ourselves and what we are. It’s also something that helps show the rest of the union and the rest of the world what we are.

Michael Daniel from Devon County described the motion was “vital”, adding that, “if it helps even one person have an easier path” then it is worth the effort.

Pointing out that definitions have changed down the years, Judy Richards from the national Black members’ committee recalled the fights for equality, including the struggle to change the group from being LG to LGBT.

The motions were passed unanimously. The name change will require a rule change, which needs a 2.3 majority vote to back it at national delegate conference.

HCPC Registration Fees

The HCPC is currently consulting members around potential increase to fees; we encourage all members to look on the HCPC website and feedback their concerns over the potential increase. Closing date is 14th December 2018

Dispatcher Job evaluation appeal

The dispatcher appeal is ongoing with a job description currently being viewed by the process leads, and should be sent out to all dispatchers shortly for comment.

End of shift – especially LAT crews

UNISON has spoken to the Trust about unacceptable levels of end of shift overtime, and is highlighting that other ambulance trusts are now implementing various ways of reducing the levels members get.

This week we have been made aware that LAT crews are now being pushed to work later than their agreed finish time on a regular basis. It was agreed at the latest Ops JSG that forcing LAT crews into regular late finishes is not acceptable. LAT Crews that receive a job that will push them past their finish times should contact the LAT desk to challenge the issue, and inform their local rep.

