



Issue 250 4th - 10th March 2019

Fair Work in Scotland's Social Care Sector

On 26 February 2019 the [Fair Work Convention](#) published its report [Fair Work in Scotland's Social Care Sector 2019](#).

The [report](#) makes recommendations about how to realise fair work for social care workers by setting out what policy makers, commissioners and leaders in Scotland's social care sector can and should do.

The joint report was led by Lilian Macer, convener of UNISON Scotland and Henry Simmons, chief executive of Alzheimer Scotland. Lilian Macer said: "There is considerable use of zero hours contracts, underemployment and seasonal contracts. This reports calls on the Scottish Government to take urgent action to bring about a radical overhaul of social care and to use fair work principles to drive high quality services for some of our most vulnerable people."

The report gives clear recommendation to improve the working lives for many low paid women workers. Read full report [here](#).



Early Years

The provision of a free at the point of use public childcare service has been a demand of the trade union movement for over a hundred years. Investment in the provision of quality childcare is therefore very welcome. But the service model must be one that closes rather than widens the attainment gap. There is a very real risk that done the wrong way we could make inequality worse rather than better. There is growing evidence that this has been the case following the move to 30 “free” hours per week in England

UNISON has many concerns about the proposed expansion. Not enough workers are being trained and if the expansion is to be channelled via expanding the private sector then decent wages, conditions and quality will all be at risk. Our full response to the Scottish Government consultation on expansion is available [here](#).



International Women’s Day 2019: Balance for Better

Women have always been central to trade unions and the fight for a better society – to celebrate International Women's Day, [we put together a timeline of some of their key achievements](#). This years campaign theme of [BalanceforBetter](#) is a call-to-action for driving gender balance across the world.

UNISON'S fight for women's equal pay in Glasgow City Council could not have happened without the persistence and solidarity of UNISON women claimants and all the support of UNISON members. Women have been on strike, campaigned, organised and taken legal action all to the highest courts. [#balanceforbetter](#)



Local Government pay deal signed off with CoSLA [details here](#)



Pick of the Media

27/02/19 [scotsman.com](#)
[... so why do we keep closing them?](#)

26/02/2019 [tuc.org](#)
[New ONS figures show more action is needed to reduce income inequality.](#)

26/02/19 [eveningexpress.co.uk](#)
[Scottish Government target missed in more than two out of five cases in parts of Scotland.](#)

25/02/19 [dailyrecord.com](#)
[Campaigners, including UNISON, meet to stand against West Dunbartonshire cuts ahead of budget setting.](#)

25/02/19 [sundaypost.com](#)
[More bad news](#) for Scotland's children living in poverty.

Read the latest from UNISON's General Secretary Dave Prentis on his blog [here](#).

**PUBLIC
WORKS:
TOOLKIT**

[Public Works](#) is the UNISON Scotland campaign for jobs, services, fair taxation and a Living Wage... and against austerity. [This toolkit](#) provides branches with campaign resources to save our public services from the cuts driven by an austerity that is a political choice not an economic necessity.

Copyright © 2016 UNISON. All rights reserved.

If you have any questions or comments, email: [UNISON Scotland Week](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)
