

## ASSISTANT BRANCH SECRETARY NOMINATION ADDRESS FOR TRACEY HARRISON



I have been a member of UNISON (& NALGO) throughout my working life and have been a workplace representative for over 25 years. During some of this time, I was a private sector branch convenor and represented the branch in TV, radio and other news media interviews mainly with regard to protecting our members in the private sector and against the further privatisation of public services.

Throughout this busy and rewarding year as the assistant branch secretary I have gained valuable further experience in supporting, representing and listening to our members in all sectors of our branch both public and private and have ensured that your voices have been heard individually and collectively.

I have alongside my fellow branch colleagues made sure that members working in schools, the community sector, voluntary sector, private sector, LCC, District/Borough councils and colleges have been fully supported, this has included being involved in the recruitment of an extra full time branch case worker and coordinator. This role has strengthened the branch and will allow us to campaign more on the issues that affect and matter to you, provide support at those times when you need it and fight for your job security, safer workplaces and pay and conditions especially in the current cost of living crisis facing our members.

Having two daughters who work in community care I have learnt from them some of the difficulties our front-line members have experienced during the pandemic. This encouraged me to Chair the branch's Covid 19 sub-group which has dealt with issues arising from the pandemic across our branch including health and safety issues, financial losses and both the mental and physical wellbeing of our members. The group continue to raise issues with employers on behalf of front-line staff, members returning to workplaces and members working from home.

As a member led union its vital that our members are involved in any decisions made by the branch and nationally through their workplace stewards and branch support to enable our members to have an important voice as each member is equally important and every member matters.

During the next year now it's more safe to travel I'm determined to get out and about visiting your workplaces to listen to your views on what's important to you so we can actively campaign together on issues including pay rises, zero hour contracts, bullying and harassment, workplace stress, job security, health and safety along with the many other issues you are facing in your workplaces across the county.

After a year as your assistant branch secretary I hope that you will vote for me and together we can collectively continue to strengthen our branch and proudly fight for our rights.

Tracey