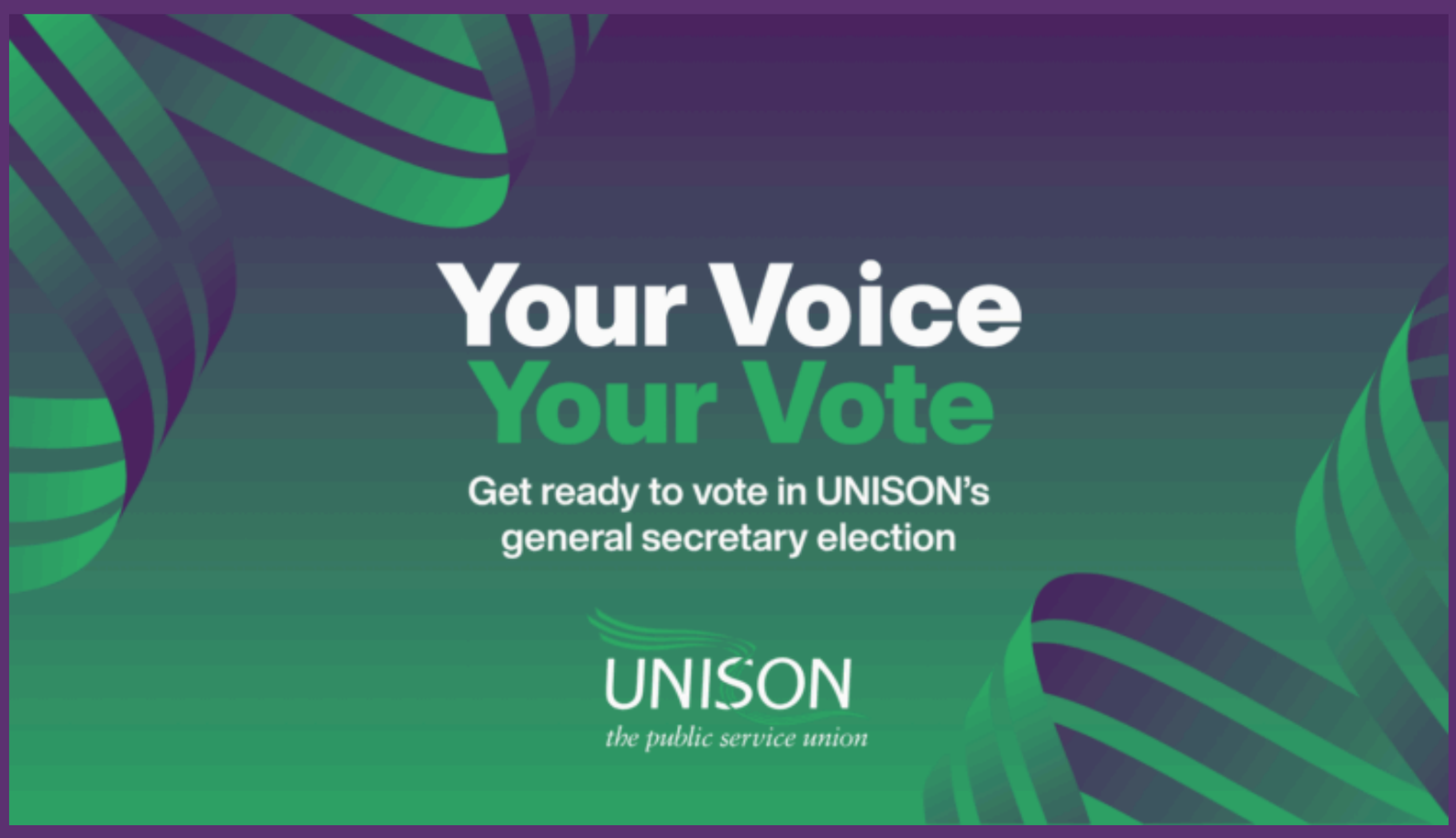
UNISON
North Yorkshire Local Government

In UNISON
November 2025



Your Voice Matters – post your vote today!

The election to choose our next General Secretary is underway, and this is your chance to shape the future of our union. If you were a full member on the register as of 28 July 2025, you're eligible to vote. Ballot papers must be returned by 5pm on 25 November 2025, and the results will be announced on 17 December 2025. Every vote counts – the higher the turnout, the stronger our democracy and the better we can represent you. Don't miss your opportunity to make a difference!

Join Today

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...and more!

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North Yorkshire Council members

North Yorkshire Council recently shared information with the Branch about amendments to its Attendance Management policy. The Branch reviewed the changes and suggested improvements to make the policy better and easier for our members to understand. While NYC adopted some of our recommendations, it's important to note that we do not approve or agree to policies – our role is to review and propose amendments. The employer ultimately decides whether to accept these suggestions.

We'll continue working hard to ensure policies reflect the best interests of our members and keep you updated on any future changes.

Local Government Pension Scheme members

The Government has decided to give protection to people in the LGPS before the change to pension age was announced.

"Pension Age Changes From 6 April 2028, the Normal Minimum Pension Age (NMPA) will increase from 55 to 57, as required by the Finance Act 2022. Members already in the LGPS before 4 November 2021 will retain a protected minimum pension age of 55. Those joining after this date, including those transferring in from other arrangements, will only have access to their benefits from age 57 unless an existing lower protection applies."

Pension Committee Vacancies

There are currently two UNISON vacancies on the Pension Committee. We are looking for an active LGPS member to join the committee. The role entails attending four meetings a year with some training events and very occasionally, additional meetings. The Committee meetings are usually held at 10am on a Thursday morning and last for around two hours. You will be able to contribute to the meeting and ask questions but do not have voting rights. There will be other UNISON reps present and you can get help and advice from Branch Officers.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the committee, please contact the Branch directly with the email subject: Pensions Committee Vacancies.

Panto offer - oh yes it is!

On 17 November, all Branch members should have received an email with details on how to book tickets for this year's magical family pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk at Harrogate Theatre on Saturday 3rd January at 5pm. If you didn't get the email and would like the booking information, just drop us a message at the Branch and we'll send you the details.

Interested in becoming a H&S rep?

We are on the look out for new Health & Safety Reps

When you hear “health and safety,” you might picture clipboards and endless paperwork—but it’s so much more than that. As a UNISON Health & Safety Rep, you’ll play a vital role in making sure your workplace is safe, healthy, and secure for colleagues and service users. You’ll gain valuable skills, meet others passionate about workplace safety, and make a real difference every day.

What do Health & Safety Reps do?

Talk to members about health and safety concerns and work with management to resolve them

Investigate potential hazards

Raise issues with employers to improve safety and tackle problems as they arise

Promote better health and safety practices and encourage everyone to get involved in the union – because UNISON is the union that gets things done!

UNISON’s H&S Committee

We hold quarterly health and safety reps meetings at the UNISON office in Northallerton. Health and Safety Reps from North Yorkshire Council and other employers meet to discuss health, safety, and wellbeing issues that are affecting their respective workplaces and colleagues.

Interested?

Please contact the branch for more information. If you work at Yorkshire Dales National Parks we’d really like to hear from you. We no longer have a Health and Safety rep so if you’re interested, please let us know!

Training

UNISON offers a fantastic range of learning and development opportunities for both activists and members – with courses available face-to-face and online.

Our regional office has just released a brand-new training programme packed with sessions running now through February. There’s something for everyone, so why not take a look and see what’s on offer?

If you are interested, click here for more information.

Dates for your diary

Save the Date – AGM Meetings for 2026

The dates are set for our 2026 Annual General Meetings, so please add them to your diary and make sure you're free to attend. All meetings start at 6:30pm, and we'll share the agenda and location details closer to the time.

Selby / York – 29 January
Craven – 5 February
Hambleton / Richmond – 12 February
Harrogate – 19 February
Scarborough / Ryedale / Whitby – 26 February
Online – 5 March

Your voice matters – join us and have your say!

School support staff

Support Staff belong in UNISON and here is why!

A recent TUC judgment has confirmed that only three unions are officially recognised to represent school support staff: UNISON, GMB, and Unite. This includes vital roles such as administrators, teaching assistants, cleaners, IT technicians, and catering staff.

The ruling makes it clear that the NEU is not recognised for school support staff and should not recruit or represent these workers. UNISON, along with GMB and Unite, will hold exclusive bargaining rights through the School Support Staff Negotiating Body (SSSNB), ensuring your voice is heard where it matters most.

Please, encourage your colleagues who are either in the wrong union, or who aren't yet members of a union, to join UNISON to make sure that they're being represented by the right union.

Don't forget to follow us!

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