

# Campaigning for a Living Wage Northern Region Newsletter

Living Wage Week Special



Living Wage week  
3 - 9 November 2013



## New Living Wage rate to be announced!

The Living Wage foundation is set to announce the new Living Wage figure on 4th November 2013. The amount as of and up to 3 November 2013 is £7.45 outside of London and is calculated independently by the Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough university. The Living Wage is defined by the following statement "The level to achieve an adequate level of warmth and shelter, a healthy palatable diet, social integration and avoidance of chronic stress for them and their dependants"

Unfortunately, despite being mainly labour led, we do not have any local authority in the North east who is an accredited Living Wage employer. Some local authorities have decided to implement their own Living Wage rate, however these are all below the independently calculated rate.

Clare Williams UNISON Northern region convenor said *"Whilst UNISON welcomes any increase Employers give to their lowest paid staff we would encourage all employers to implement the independently set national Living Wage. This ensures staff are paid transparently and consistently. There has been a significant increase in the numbers of people experiencing in-work poverty, and the implementation of the Living Wage would be a step in helping to improve this. Local authorities have expressed a wish to grow their local economies, and yet still we have over 14000 local authority employees in the region paid below the Living Wage"*.

Evidence shows that those paid at the lowest level are more likely to spend any additional money in local stores, this in itself will boost

local and regional economies allowing our cities to grow.

UNISON is aware of the desire to set a regional Living Wage among our authorities but this then reopens the debate around regional pay and will once again put the north east at risk of being segregated from the rest of the country, and if the rate is set lower than that which is set nationally then we risk losing experienced, hard working staff to areas where they will simply be paid more for doing the same job.

UNISON oppose regional pay, and Labour did too, lets keep them to that promise!

**Regional pay doesn't add up!**

**£11,073** - The average annual salary of someone paid the minimum wage working 37 hours per week.

**£12,565** - The average salary of someone paid the Living Wage working 37 hours a week.

**£1,492** - The difference between the two, enough to pay a families average annual fuel bill of £1,420 and still have change.



Women's Policy weekend Sept 2013



I want to **live** not just **exist**  
Campaigning for a Living Wage

# Living Wage Week programme of activity

Date	Time, venue & event	Time, venue & event	Time, venue & event	Time, venue & event	Time, venue & event
<b>Mon 4 Nov</b>	9:00-1:00 <b>South Tees Hospital</b> Induction Information / recruitment stall	10:00-13:30 <b>Tees, Esk &amp; Wear Valley</b> Induction Information / recruitment stall	11.30 - 13.30 <b>Darlington Memorial Hospital</b> Information / recruitment stall and floor walking		
<b>Tues 5 Nov</b>	9.00 - 10.30 <b>Middlesbrough College</b> Information / recruitment stall	10.30 - 14.00 <b>North Tees and Hartlepool health branch</b> Information / recruitment stall and food bank collection	11.00 - 14.00 <b>North Tyneside council</b> Quadrant East (outside of restaurant) Information / recruitment stall	11.30 - 13.30 <b>South Tyneside Town Centre</b> Kings Street, under metro bridge Guy Fawkes stunt	12.30 - 14.30 <b>NCVS AGM</b> <b>Great North Museum</b> Information / recruitment stall
<b>Wed 6 Nov</b>	11.00 - 14.00 <b>Hartlepool College</b> Information / recruit- ment stall	12.30 - 14.30 <b>Durham University</b> Turner Room, Van Mildert College, <b>'The Living Wage movement in the UK'</b> (includes buffet lunch) This event is likely to be popular so booking is essential please visit <a href="http://livingwagemove-&lt;br/&gt;ment.eventbrite.co.uk">http:// livingwagemove- ment.eventbrite.co.uk</a>	2.00 - 4.00pm <b>Hexham General Hospital</b> Information / recruitment Stall	16.00 - 18.00 <b>Newcastle university</b> Research Beehive, Old Library building. <b>'The Living Wage movement in the UK'</b> Research Beehive, Old Library building. This event is likely to be popular so booking is essential please visit <a href="http://forms.ncl.ac.uk/view.php?id=4797">http://forms.ncl.ac.uk/view.php? id=4797</a>	
<b>Thurs 7 Nov</b>	10.00 - 15.00 <b>Town Hall South Shields</b> Northern Living Wage Summit		11.00 - 14.00 <b>New college Durham</b> Information / recruitment stall		
<b>Fri 8 Nov</b>	9:00-5:00 <b>Various visits to Fabrick/Erimus Workplaces</b>				

The northern region now have the use of two Living Wage pull up banners, if you would like to use one of the pull ups an event you are attending or for further information on The Living wage campaign in the northern region please contact Natasha Nicholson on 0191 245 0856 or [n.nicholson2@unison.co.uk](mailto:n.nicholson2@unison.co.uk)