

Young Workers Forum Action Bulletin

Number 6, 4th July 2015

TUC Young Workers Forum bulletin.

Welcome to the sixth TUC Young Workers Forum bulletin

TUC Young Workers Open Forum on Mental Health.

The TUC young workers forum met in Manchester on 4th July for an Open Forum event discussing on the priority campaign topic young people and mental health.



TUC Regional Secretary, Lynn Collins, welcomed young people from the North West region to the event, which started with an opening session from Simone Spray from local charity 42nd Street, who gave an informative presentation on the increasing problem of young

people dealing with mental ill health and the need to tackle these issues much earlier.



The group then heard the lived experience of being young and dealing with the challenges of mental ill health from three young speakers who now act as young advisers for the NHS.





For practical advice on what trade unions can do to help promote good mental health and well being in the workplace the forum heard from USDAW reps who have successfully negotiated a workplace agreement on best practice with their employer at a SERCO call centre.

A workshop provided by Trade Union Education Officer Vicky Knight, gave further tips on how reps can support members suffering with mental health problems and delegates reported back on what practical things they could take away from the session and implement in their workplaces.

Mental Health

Work on the priority campaign continues and a new resources pack is in the making, which will include information regarding young people and mental health and tips for implementing good practice in the workplace. The guide will also include case studies from trade unions and examples of the type of steps reps have taken both to agree workplace policy on mental health and in supporting individual members. The guide will be available at the beginning of August and will be available to download via the TUC website.

Housing

The TUC young workers Housing Charter was agreed at the forum meeting. The Charter sets out the key reforms that young people in the private rented sector need to ensure safe, fair and affordable housing. The Charter will be available to view on the TUC website from 20th July. The Charter will be presented to local authorities requesting that they sign up to the standards indicated and give a public commitment to implementing the changes necessary to give young people a fairer deal on housing.

TUC Young Workers Month 2015

Plans have started already for the next young workers month in November. Delegates agreed that they would go back to their unions and begin the planning process for YWM 2015, with

a proposed interim online Forum meeting at the end of July and August to discuss ideas.

TUC Young Workers Conference 2016

Conference will take place on 9th and 10th April next year. Delegates were asked at the meeting to confer with their youth committees and submit ideas for workshops and speakers.

Young Workers Organising Strategy

The TUC <u>YWOS</u> has been given greater priority by the TUC and will be included in the, soon to be publicised, TUC Campaign Plan, as one of the 5 key priorities.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on 10th October in London.

Contacts

If you would like more information about the TUC National Young Workers Forum or if you would like to know how to get involved in your region, please contact us via the below:



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