

James Minto

NEC Nomination

Local Government General Seat



- Member of Unison for 25 Years
- Nottinghamshire County Branch Chair & Childrens Services Convenor
- East Midlands Deputy Regional Convenor
- National Black Members Committee Member

Dear Branch Secretary

This last year has got to be one of the most challenging our public service workers have ever faced. Many risked their lives providing our essential services and sadly one too many have died. I also recognise the disproportionate impact the pandemic has had for Black workers on the frontline. I salute you all and thank you for all you have done.

This is a tragedy in one of the richest countries on the globe with a national healthcare system, a long tradition of public health services and world class research infrastructure.

The scene for the current crisis was set long before the virus arrived. Covid laid bare the widespread inequalities that exist in the UK and the lack of resilience in our key public services after 10 years of Tory austerity and policy failure.

Overcrowded housing, poverty and insecure work became the ideal conditions for the virus to spread.

Under investment in public services is at the heart of the staffing shortages in the NHS which saw the health service short of 100,000 staff at the start of the pandemic. Austerity has forced the NHS to breaking point, with pre-covid bed occupancy at 90% and numbers of ICU beds, doctors, nurses and diagnostic equipment well below comparator countries. When the surge came managing it became very difficult.

The pandemic has also shone a harsh light on the obviously inadequate system of social care where spending in 2018/19 was less than a decade earlier in real terms. A fragmented system of private care providers who operate in a way that hinders accountability. Over a fifth of UK deaths took place in care homes. Privatisation hasn't worked. Two-thirds of adult social care workers say the quality of adult care has dropped because of large-scale outsourcing since the early 1990s. 1 in 4 home care services are failing to meet quality and safety standards.

And with a 22% cut in public health teams local government was left with fewer staff and less capacity to meet the sudden surge in demand that Covid-19 entailed.

As the pandemic took hold the Tories reverted to type using the cloak of a national emergency to enrich the privateers. The government awarded over 8600 contracts worth £18bn by 31 July, with most of these (£16.2bn worth) awarded by the Department of Health and Social Care and its national bodies. Contracts totaling £10.5bn have been awarded without a competitive tender process.

We cannot now allow the cost of the pandemic as a reason once again to cut funding to outsource/privatise our services to attack our pay, terms and conditions and pension. To meet these challenges we need to build resistance, it is essential we have the full involvement of members, activists and our officials at all levels of the union.

We will need to be organised to campaign and fight for a better future. We need appropriate funding for branches to meet the challenges, branches dealing with more and more complex issues across a wide range of employers. have been part of the Branch Resources Review helping to ensure your branch gets the support it needs.

As a Black member and member of the National Black Members Committee, equality issues are at the heart of everything I do. I will stand up against Racism, Homophobia, Disability Discrimination, Sexism and any other form of inequality.

Our members are our Union and if elected I will always be the voice of the members I represent, I will be available to you and do my best to get you the support you require.

Christina McAnea's election marks a great opportunity for our union to get our members more involved and working together to meet the challenges we will face.

In the words of Martin Luther King "If I cannot do Great Things I will ensure I do all small things GREAT"

Please consider nominating Janet Green, Maggie Griffin and Sean Fox.

Kind Regards

James Minto

James Minto
Membership no: 3394204
james.minto1@ntlworld.com