

Fair Pensions for All

Members from across the region were among thousands of teachers, lecturers and support staff who went to Parliament on 26 October to lobby their MPs about pension cuts in the education sector.

Over 150,000 petition signatures were handed to the government.

Staff from the maintained, academy and independent sectors in England and Wales as well as from colleges and post-92 universities, lobbied their MPs and handed in petitions from their workplaces.

This lobby and the large number of petitions returned should serve as a wake-up call to the Government. If Ministers don't recognise that pensions are both affordable and sustainable, many teachers and lecturers will be left with no option but to take further action, including supporting the planned TUC day of action on 30 November.

Pensions action meetings for school representatives are being organised in preparation for the planned day of strike action on 30 November. Please make every effort to attend your local meeting as it will be an important forum for sharing information and for discussing practical ideas for building for the strike in your school.

Go to www.teachers.org.uk/node/14134 to view



meetings taking

place in your area.

The NUT supports the call for a first day of industrial action on 30 November 2011. This follows a decision at the TUC for co-ordinated strike action against the cuts being proposed to public sector pensions.

The Government's proposed changes to teachers' pensions risk driving two-thirds of teachers from the classroom, according to



an NUT

survey. 69 per cent of respondents said that the proposals to make teachers pay more, work longer and get less

pension would make them more likely to leave teaching.

The most unpopular proposal is to make teachers work until they are 68 for a full pension. Over half of respondents put this first in order of unpopularity. Among young teachers under 30, however, the proposal to increase pension contributions by more than half was just as unpopular as the proposed increase in pension ages.

The NUT has found that a staggering 85.5% of



young teachers under the age of 25 would be either very much more likely or a little more likely to leave the TPS. We face the prospect of an entire generation of young teachers who are not saving for retirement.

The NUT firmly believes that the Government's proposals are unnecessary, given the 2007 changes which have already increased pension contributions for all teachers and pension ages for new entrants and put a limit on employer contributions. The survey shows that, overall, 94% of respondents agree with the NUT's view.

Get involved in the NUT



The NUT is always keen to promote ways of getting involved in the work of the Union – and this does not just mean coming to meetings, we all know the pressures there are on teachers' time. With our proud reputation for research and the development of education policy we are ideally placed to influence thinking in our schools and support all teachers in providing the highest quality education in a number of ways.

School Governance

The NUT is rightly proud of the number of our members who show an extra commitment to the education of their pupils by becoming involved as a school governor. Whether the chosen route is as a staff, parent, LA or co

-opted governor, you are well placed to have a positive impact on the policies of your schools. Furthermore, in the increasingly fragmented educational landscape, NUT governors are able to act as a conduit for two-way communication on a range of ideas and policies between the school and the Union. Where proposals for academy status are being made, NUT governors can be of immense importance in influencing the views of other governors and ensuring that decisions are properly held to account. If you are a governor then please let us know, and if you are not, but would like to become one, then we would be delighted to advise you.

Young Teacher Officers

The Union is increasingly seeking to encourage younger members to get involved, but we cannot escape from the fact that teachers in the early part of their career are often those with the

least time available. Given this, it is more important than ever that anyone who feels they have ideas they can share to develop the involvement of this important group feels they have a voice within the NUT. This is why the Union is keen to promote the role of Young Teacher Officers. If you have ideas as to how to increase access to the work of the Union for our younger members then please get in touch with your local division. @vinwynne

RECT 2012

We are now inviting applications for #RECT12. Priority will be given to members who have not attended previously and/or members from LA's who are not represented. Feedback from previous delegates is always very positive. Read all about it and apply online at www.rect.org.uk. Follow @NUTNorthernRO to get information on #RECT12 as well as other NUT related news from across the region.

Not only the biggest, but also the best!

The National Union of Teachers is both a professional association and a trade union. It is the largest and most influential teachers' organisation in Europe, recruiting only qualified teachers, or those who are on courses or in posts that will lead to teacher qualification.

Complete Protection. Being a member of the NUT brings access to the very best legal and professional protection. It gives you a service unrivalled in the teaching profession.

Support and Advice. The NUT has a network of regional offices in England and NUT Cymru in Wales. Each office has experienced casework officers and solicitors, as well as other expert staff to give confidential advice, information or assistance on employment rights and other matters relating to your professional life.

Campaigning. The NUT campaigns for a reduction in working hours, the removal of excessive workload, and a better work-life balance. We also campaign for fair pay and reform of the assessment system.

Experts in Education. We work on curriculum issues as well as pay and conditions of service.

Continuing Professional Development. Our continuing professional development programme is recognised as one of the best in the country.

Benefits and Services. We offer a wide range of membership benefits and services. Our members save hundreds of pounds a year by accessing discounts available through their membership.

Equal Opportunities. Our groundbreaking policy work on equalities issues has been adopted by schools, local authorities and other government institutions.

Young Teachers. We have a thriving young teachers' section for all full members under 36. To find out more, visit our website www.teachers.org.uk.

One Union for all Teachers. The NUT campaigns consistently for professional unity in the teaching profession. We believe that a single professional body, articulating the views of the profession, would benefit both children and teachers.

Education for All. We campaign for a good local school for every child and for every community. We are also a member of the Global Campaign for Education, working for every child in the world to have a primary school education by 2015.



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