

# April 2024

## Welcome to our first UNISON Lothian Health Branch newsletter

### Kicking off 2024 - Year of the LGBT+ Workers.

At UNISON's LGBT+ Conference in November 2023 in Liverpool, the Branch sent 4 delegates - Mhairi McKean, Mia King, Robert Pollock & Stewart Young. Delegates welcomed the launch of the Year of LGBT+ Workers, which will take place throughout 2024. This Campaign follows UNISON's successful Year of Disabled Workers in 2022 and the Year of Black Workers in 2023.



### ELF SERVICE DAY - 15th December.

As well as each Unison Office celebrating and raising funds for charity, Unison Lothian Health Branch Stewards were over at the RHCYP to give the children a wee present from Unison to cheer them up at Christmas. The Stewards look forward to what has become an annual event. This is the first time since the pandemic hit that they have been able to visit the children. A big thanks to Unison Stewards, Michael Shaw (Santa) and Liam Kerr (Rudolph) and one of our members, Laura Campbell (Buddy) for getting into the festive spirit. A special mention to Jordan Miller for all of his hard work organising the event and getting our gifts over to RHCYP

### Black Workers National Conference 2024

Tina Makedenge updates us after the conference. We attended our Black Workers National Conference from the 19th - 21st January 2024 in Brighton. Many thanks to our Lothian Health Branch who supported four of us attending. There were a number of motions debated and this year we agreed to continue establishing legacy to encourage change. As Black Members Unison encourages you to be visible in your workplaces as well as in Unison. We want to see black workers in senior posts at work and are also keen to encourage members to develop into Stewards and Officers in Unison Lothian Health Branch. In Lothian we have a What's App group with over 50 members. Most Unison meetings and events are advertised on that platform. If you want to join the group, please text or phone this number 07519374193.





## Women's Conference 2024

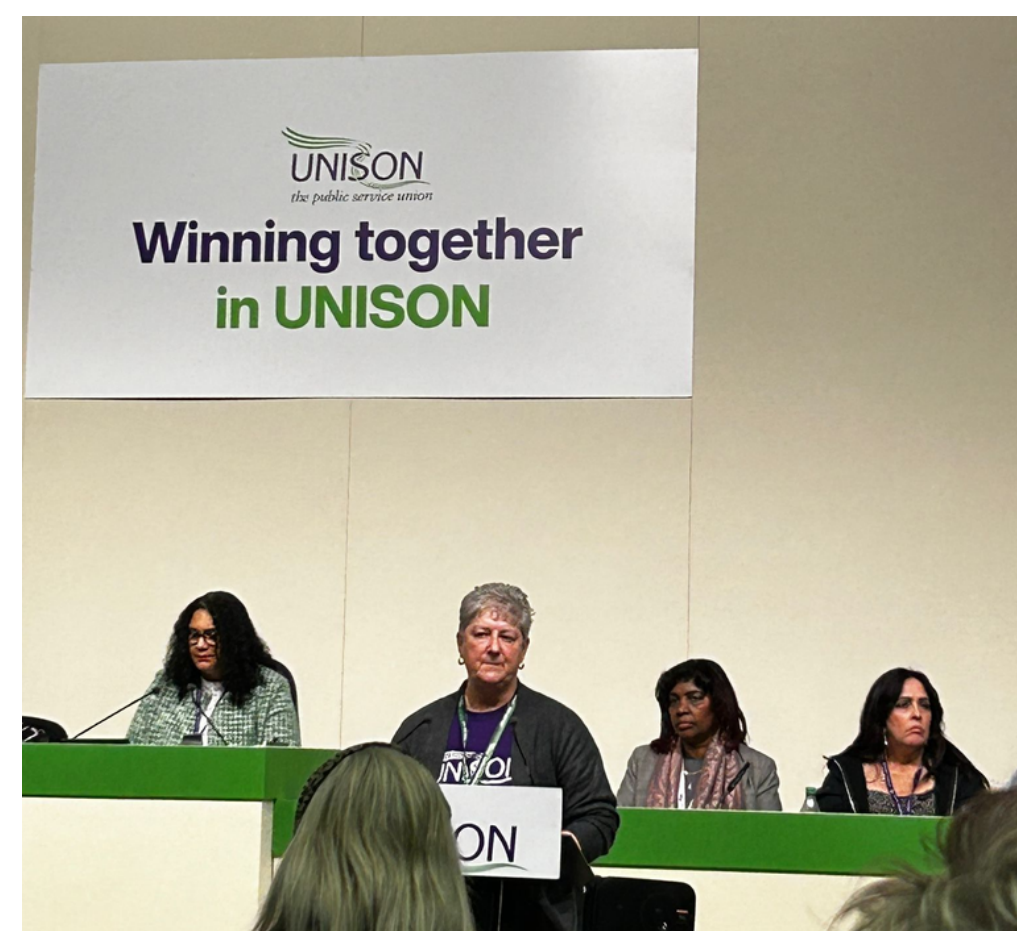
Tracie McBurnie updates us after the Conference. In February 2024, it was time for us to represent UNISON Lothian Health Branch as delegates at Women's Conference in Brighton.

Our delegation was Rakiya Suleiman and Susan Sim. The Branch was delighted to have two first time delegates attend this Conference - Debs Lettieri and Angela Carroll.

We had an amazing time supporting and debating the issues that affect our women members in UNISON. Rakiya supported 'Emergency Motion 1- Supporting Women and Children In Gaza' which was overwhelmingly supported by the national delegates. Susan Sim supported a motion in support of women suffering neglect and abuse abroad.

It was amazing representing our women members in this Conference and we look forward to hearing the outcome of the commitments that were made.

This was Tracy McBurnie's first Year on the Standing Orders Committee, and not on the debating floor - and it must be said, she missed the banter and camaraderie of being with the Branch delegation in the hall and out!! We all missed meeting up with Norma Black for a full delegation debrief in Brighton, but managed to catch up via Social Media!



Our LGBT+ Officer Stewart Young, launched the Year of the LGBT+ Worker in Lothian Health branch, our first stop of the year was at Midlothian Community Hospital, where we met some fantastic people, and spoke to improving equality awareness within NHS Lothian, and also gained a few new members along the way, roll on to our next stop East Lothian Community Hospital.

### Year of LGBT+ workers Roadshow dates:

East Lothian Community Hospital 10th April  
St Johns Hospital 25th April  
Western General Hospital 16th May  
Comely Bank Centre 21st May  
PRIDE MARCH Saturday 22nd June  
Waverley Care 17th July  
Waverley Gate 8th August  
Edinburgh Royal Infirmary 14th August  
Astley Ainslie Hospital 18th September  
Royal Edinburgh Hospital 16th October  
Lauriston Building 22nd November



Hope to see you on a site soon.





## East Lothian Community Hospital - Recruitment Day

On Saturday the 3rd of February some of the East and Midlothian UNISON team - Thomas Miller, Sharon Jamieson & Liam Kerr, were invited to attend the East Lothian NHS recruitment drive at East Lothian Community Hospital. It was a very busy and successful day for both NHS and UNISON on the recruitment front. There were over 20 people interviewed on the day. The East and Midlothian team managed to recruit some new members and give additional information on the trade union movement and all the benefits of being in a union and most importantly the benefits of being in the largest trade union in Scotland - UNISON.

UNISON Shop Stewards Carolyn Casey and Sharon Jamieson spent some time at DRUM Riding for the Disabled this afternoon. They were there to present the centre with over £1800 as the Branch's chosen charity this year. The money was raised at the branch AGM in February, so a huge thanks to all those who donated.



It was a big start of the year for the Thebans Women's LGBT+ rugby squad! We as a Branch are hugely proud to sponsor this amazing bunch. Not only did they launch their new kit with the Unison Lothian Health Branch logo on, but they took to the park for their inaugural match with @Hillfoots Vixens.



Tracy Anne Miller, Branch Secretary, was interviewed by Radio Forth 1 about NHS Lothian's plan to stop the free shuttle bus service to and from the RIE from Sheriffhall park and ride from 31/3/24. Unison Lothian Health Branch Stewards and members staged a demonstration at the RIE to object to the removal of this service.

## Band 2 to Band 3 CSW Campaign

The Branch launched a campaign just over two years ago now to have our hard-working Support Workers financially recognised for their clinical skills. Unison successfully negotiated a move from band 2 to band 3 for Support Workers who undertook clinical tasks. This saw 85% of all band 2 Support Workers in NHS Lothian move to band 3. This was back-dated to October 2021 and by October 2023 all were on the top of the pay scale. The Branch then negotiated the same agreement for Support Workers on the Staff Bank. We are nearly at the end of the up-bandings for Bank staff and again has seen 85% of them move to band 3. It has been a long and stressful process for our members but has seen a long overdue and well deserved £2000 uplift in their pay. We are now pursuing a similar deal for our other members undertaking clinical roles so watch this space!





UNISON LOTHIAN  
HEALTH BRANCH

**WELCOME TO THE UNISON LOTHIAN HEALTH BRANCH WEBSITE.**

WE ARE THE LARGEST TRADE UNION IN NHS LOTHIAN, REPRESENTING OVER 12,000 MEMBERS

[Join Now](#)

## Unison Lothian Health Branch

2.4K likes · 3K followers

This is a page dedicated to providing information and exchanging views with members of the UNISON Lothian Health Branch.

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Celebrating 2024  
of LGBT+ workers

Follow

### UNISON Lothian health

@LothianUnison

UNISON Lothian Health Branch are dedicated to supporting our members, safeguarding our T&C,s and fighting to ensure our staff are paid appropriately

[Scotland](#)

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[Joined July 2020](#)

131 Following 325 Followers

Followed by UNISON Fife Health

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In January 2024 we launched our new Branch website [unisonlothianhealth.org](http://unisonlothianhealth.org) to compliment our X, Facebook and Youtube social media channels

[Scan QR code to join UNISON](#)

## 7 reasons to join UNISON

Each of our 1.4 million members has their own reasons for joining UNISON.

But every one receives our help and support.

**Legal Help**

For you at work and your family at home

**Financial Assistance**

And debt advice in times of need

**Compensation**

for you and your family

**Discounts**

including money off cars and holidays

**Helpline**

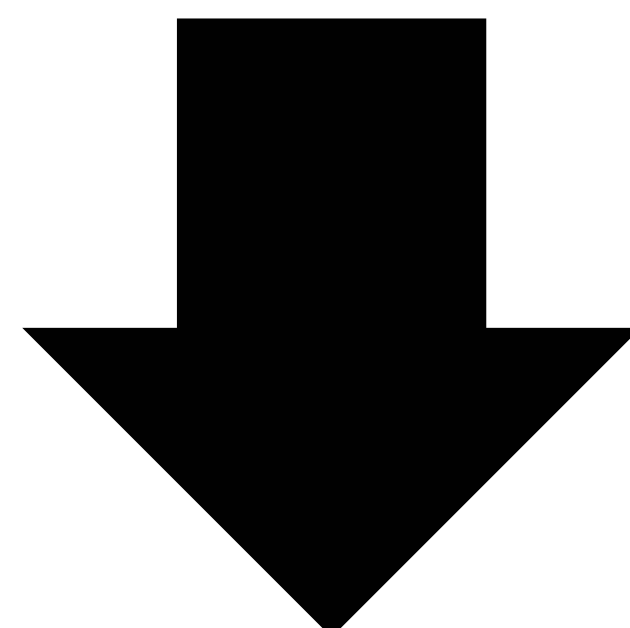
Our helpline is open until midnight weekdays, and 4pm on Saturdays, closed on Sundays

**Training**

to help develop your career

**Support**

we'll be with you when you need it most



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