

## **Regional Young Workers Committee Annual Report 2019**

At Present the union is undergoing a period of change and the role of the Young Worker is no exception. In the North West Region we are proud of the contribution Young Workers make to the union, their workplaces and their communities. Recently, we have seen young workers represented at some important events such as the Demonstration against the Conservative Party Conference in Manchester, the North West Labour Unions campaign day and leafleting in support of Chris Webb who will be standing as MP for Blackpool North and Cleveleys. Whilst, internally YW have made a great contribution to the Royal Mail “#We Rise again” Campaign, with special mention of Elli Long who addressed a gate meeting. Since the General Election was called, many young workers have supported Labour Party Candidates CWU and otherwise by giving up free time to deliver leaflets and door knock. We hope to build on this positive culture of upcoming reps being at the forefront of both political and industrial issues, we aim to introduce a political element to our future events to ensure newer reps are given an opportunity to learn and become more engaged.



### **NW Regional Lead Perspective**



and YW's equality strands.

Since attending my first Executive Committee Meeting we have begun to implement some of the strategies of my previous report. I highlighted the need for YW's to branch out into other aspects of the union, Mark Holt and myself are currently arranging for a Mental Health Event at Bootle Financial Services aimed at call centre workers, the event will offer members a chance to engage in conversations with an interactive mental health chess activity. We feel this is a good collaboration between the H+S

Whilst at the NW Executive Meeting we identified a drop in Young Worker Engagement in terms of electing a Young Workers Rep and event attendance. In response to this, I am currently mapping all of the branches in the NW Region to enable us to better monitor branch succession and participation. I previously contacted branch secretaries to offer support from the NW Committee for branches struggling to fill the YW position, I was pleased that Hannah Price of Preston Brook and Bury Branch has approached myself for assistance. We have decided to hold our first Committee Meeting at her branch to raise the profile of Young Union officials in the workplace, which we expect to take place early in the New Year.

I have also sent out a further email to branch secretaries in anticipation of our next National Young Workers Event as we aim to have most branches submit a motion to the YW's Annual Conference. I will also give secretaries a further opportunity to seek assistance from the committee.

We will also continue to develop and implement the Young Workers role description/toolkit which was delivered in person to Branch Secretaries by Elli Long, Erin Brett and myself, which has been well received which we hope will improve the engagement of YW Reps in the next year.

### **NWYEE Manchester**

We recently hosted the National Young Workers Education Event as a Region and enjoyed another successful event. The Event was held at the Mechanics Institute and it was great to see the talent and enthusiasm of young trade unionists on show. The National Executive Committee were represented with General Secretary Dave Ward and Deputy General Secretary Tony Kearns addressing delegates, alongside the North West's own Regional Secretary Carl Webb. However, it was notable that the event was not as well attended as previous events we have hosted in the North West. We would point to workplace and young worker attrition as a decisive factor with certain branches having to constantly recruit a new Young Workers Rep. Despite this, the event was ended on a high with inspirational speaker Bianca Todd of the Ron Todd Foundation sending delegates around Manchester with old shoes fashioned into a plant pot. Activities such as these are ideal for building a National Network of Young Workers, which will be necessary to ensure the union continues to function cohesively through the process of succession planning.



### **YW Committee Meeting/Supporting Chris Webb**

On 5/12/19 we held our NWYW Committee meeting in the Blackpool North and Cleveleys office, which is where the CWU sponsored candidate -Chris Webb is running his election campaign. Due to the election and being in the midst of the Festive Period, many of our committee members were unable to secure release due to the operational needs of Royal Mail. Special mention of Adam Kara who was able to attend and complete several rounds of leafletting after the committee meeting.

As Mapping is currently underway I hope to improve the notice I am giving to NWYW's to request release and be able to communicate more easily when we have an up to date record of YW's officers and their contact details.

### **National Young Workers Conference Bristol**

The next National Young Workers Event is scheduled to take part on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020, at the Marriott Hotel in Bristol. We are hoping to ensure that this event is better attended than the NYWEE event prior. As mentioned elsewhere in the report we have begun mapping young workers across the North West Region to

ensure they are better engaged with the NW committee, we hope to see some of this work bear fruit with a strong and improved representation of North West Branches. I have sent out an email to North West Branch Secretaries requesting said information, but as a contingency I will use the next event as an opportunity to capture the details in person, meaning we should have a decent picture of North West Young Workers early in 2020. We will also encourage branches in the North West Region to submit at least one motion from each branch, with the North West Committee also to submit a motion.

