

Pension Cash - Update

Commenting on the changes that will give pensioners with annuities the right to cash them in, **UNISON General Secretary Dave Prentis** said: "Being able to cash in low-performing annuities might seem like a good idea now, but it's a move fraught with risk for millions of pensioners. Retired people could fall victim to scamming by unscrupulous types keen to get their hands on pensioners' hard-earned cash. There's also a danger that pensioners will run out of money – leaving them with many years where their only income is state benefits. Two information sessions have been arranged to highlight the changes.

Friday 24th April, 12.00 - 1. 00,
1.00 - 2.00, Blaydon Room.

MEARS PLC , Monday 27th April,
12.00 - 1.00, 1.00 - 2.00, Room 5

Remember the Dead
Fight for the living.

International Workers Memorial
Day 28th April
The Rose Garden, Saltwell Park,
Gateshead. Meet at 12.00 for a
12.30 pm start.

33% Increase - Update



A big thanks to all members who participated in the recent Staff Car Parking Permit consultation. Over 400 responses were received from members who pay for a permit - meaning over a 60% return.

Many comments included shocked, disbelief, unfair and at the same time acknowledged the financial pressure the council is under. Various meetings have taken place which also highlighted how these increases would add to the on-going pressure on personal finances. These 33% increases are hugely disproportionate in comparison to other increases and will penalise hard pressed staff who have an operational requirement to park at or near their workplace.

Discussions have been arranged to attempt to find a way forward with Corporate Services and Governance, we will feedback ASAP.

Lift off, Rapid Response

Gateshead Council's In-House Domiciliary Care Service commenced their new Rapid Response Domiciliary Care Service on Monday 13th April.

As part of Gateshead's Better Care Fund developments, the service will immediately respond to people in crisis, ensuring that community medical, nursing and social care support is provided in an integrated and coordinated way.

The service will seek to support individuals who have frequent A&E attendances and make regular requests for GP house visits - individuals, who without an intervention, would potentially



need an admission to an emergency residential placement / hospital. The service will operate 24 hours a day with a 2 hour response time to any referral.

I'm Speaking Up for Public Services!

The Conservatives/Liberal Democrat government has slashed **47%** from Gateshead Council's funding, with more huge cuts lined up.

This means in **Dunston Hill and Whickham**.
Dunston Leisure Centre Under threat
Dunston Activity Centre ... Under threat
Dunston/Whickham Library's Under Threat
Older Peoples Support Service – Under Threat

Please... use your vote on 7th May to help protect vital public services.

Northern Public Services Alliance
United to Protect Public Services



Gateshead Public Service Alliance Update – Headlines.

- *Gateshead Fire brigades Union warns of 'catastrophic' cuts in fire services.*
- *Gateshead Mental Health Services continue to be under severe pressure, service users (including children) travelling 100's of miles for treatment.*
- *Huge 24% cuts to adult learning in Colleges, Including Gateshead.*