



Weekly Bulletin



14th December
2018

Bumper Christmas Edition

Together, we made it the most successful recruitment month ever

More people joined UNISON in November – or Grovember as we've been calling it – than in any single month in the union's 25 year history.

More than 18,000 people joined the UK's biggest union during our a month-long recruitment and retention drive that saw the whole union – at branch, regional and national level – working together.

UNISON is now poised to show annual membership growth for the first time in 10 years, despite continuing austerity, the Trade Union Act and job losses in the public sector.

More support, more resources, greater visibility, better bargaining power and stronger advocacy – they're all a direct result of having more voices speak as one, in UNISON.



Pay Ballot

The 2018 Pay Claim ballot
closes at 5pm on
Wednesday 19th December
Don't forget to vote!

Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

We will be outside the FHQ canteen on Monday 17th December over the lunch period offering (non-alcoholic) mulled wine and mince pies.

Christmas can be a worrying time for some so we will have information on the welfare services available to members.

Why not learn a new skill, take some time to work on your wellbeing or give your career a boost in 2019. We will also have details of some of the free member courses that will be available to you next year.

Finally enter our raffle to win this Christmas hamper and the proceeds will go the UNISON welfare charity There For You.

We look forward to seeing you!



Look Out for Nominations

Every year all branch positions are up for election at the AGM. In order to be elected members must submit a nomination form signed by two other members of the branch.

This year nominations will open in the New Year so if you are currently a steward or officer and would like to re-stand or if you are thinking of becoming more active in the union make sure you look out for the communications telling you how to nominate yourself.

Nominations will open on 2nd January and close on 23rd January.

Benefit Pay Dates Over Christmas and New Year

Tax Credits

Due on 25th, 26th or 27th Dec will be paid on Christmas Eve

Due on 28th will be paid on 27th Dec

Due on 1st or 2nd Jan will be paid on New Year's Eve and 3rd Jan paid on 2nd.

Child Benefit

Due on 25th Dec will be paid on 24th and 1st Jan will be paid on 31st Dec.

More People Than Ever Expected to Visit Food Banks This Christmas

Last December the Trussell Trust network of food banks saw a 49% increase in the number of people it provided emergency food to compared to the monthly average for 2017/18. They expect this Christmas to be even busier. They rely on donations to provide essential food supplies to thousands of families who are struggling to meet the basic costs of living. The issues with Universal Credit are likely to have exasperated this for many.

You might see some BOGOF offers while out shopping for your Christmas supplies. Why not donate the free items to a food bank?

You can find out how to donate to your local food bank via the links below.

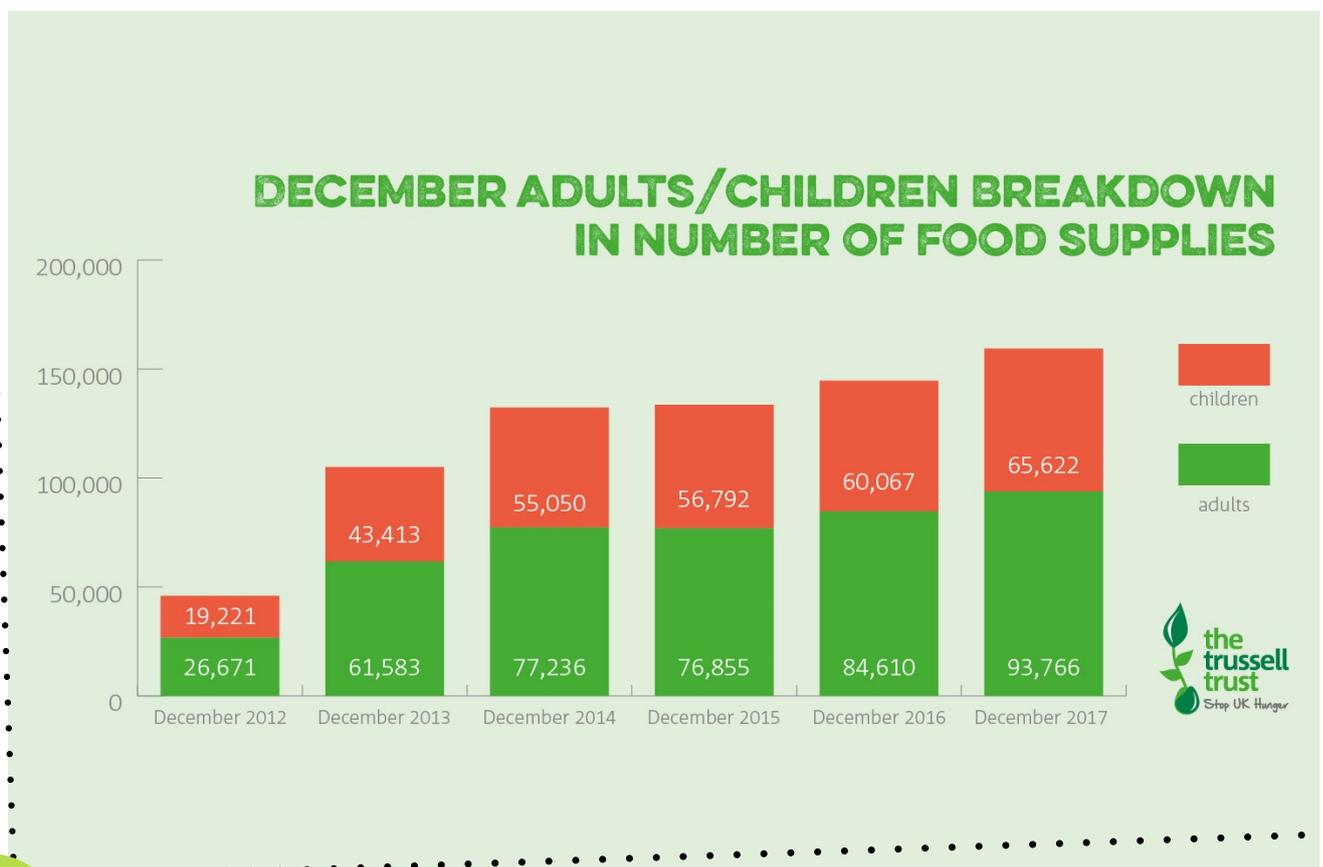
<https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/>

<https://spencerbridge.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

<http://www.kcultd.org.uk/donate-to-kcu-foodbank-hub/>

<https://towcester.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

<https://corby.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>





GENERAL FINANCIAL SURGERY

Thursday 17th January 2019

Understanding where you are now and where you want to be in the future enables you to make informed decisions about your finances. Lighthouse Financial Advice is here to offer advice on all aspects of financial planning.

HOW WE CAN HELP

Our Professional Financial Advisers are able to use researched solutions drawn from a range of products and providers to find the most appropriate* products for you and can advise upon:

Financial Protection for You and Your Family

Pension Advice and Planning for Retirement

Savings and Investments

Tax Planning**

Mortgages

This surgery is free to UNISON members. To take advantage of this invaluable opportunity and book your initial 30 minute consultation with an adviser please contact:

Gary.Mcleod@lighthousegroup.plc.uk or telephone 01273 523709

Date: Thursday 17th January 2019

**Venue: Costa Coffee Room
Northamptonshire Police HQ
Wootton Hall
Northampton
NN4 0JQ**

Start time: 10:30 End time: 15:00

If you are interested but are unable to attend please let us know and we will arrange for the adviser to contact you.

*We have chosen to avoid products we consider too high risk for the majority of our clients

**Tax advice which contains no investment element is not regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority