

Support for Striking Health Workers

“This Council notes with concern that health workers in Belfast are once again forced to take strike action for fair pay.

Health workers have faced long-term deterioration in conditions, a series of below inflation pay offers, and the additional work due to staff shortages and the ongoing crisis within the Health Service.

The Council further notes that health workers are being offered an unsatisfactory pay offer in the midst of the cost-of-living crisis, as many who work full time are struggling to make ends meet.

In order to retain a vibrant and world class health service, it is vital that we reward staff fairly for the work which they carry out. High levels of agency usage, staff travelling to find better pay and conditions elsewhere, underfunding and privatisation is actively undermining this aim.

The pandemic has shown how important our health service and the workers who staff it, are. Yet many NHS staff still suffer poverty wages and are forced to consider leaving a job they studied and worked hard to achieve.

The Council resolves to write to the Department for Health and the Secretary of State, in the absence of a Minister for Health, to urge them to source and provide a fair, above inflation pay rise for health workers.

The Council further resolves to show public support for health workers on pickets and to send a message of solidarity on behalf of Councillors to Unison, The Royal College of Nurses and NIPSA, who are engaged in the action.”

Proposer: Councillor Matt Collins

Seconder: Councillor Michael Collins