

## THINKING OF BECOMING A UNION CONTACT FOR THE SOCIAL WORKERS UNION (SWU)?

### A SWU Union Contact is a vital member of our team!

SWU's model of developing a network of Union Contacts offers an alternative to the traditional union shop steward approach by ensuring that employment negotiations are confined to paid SWU Trade Union and BASW Officials and your employer. This reduces the potential for tension between staff and management within the workplace, and ensures that you have fewer formal responsibilities than a traditional shop steward.

As a SWU Union Contact you will promote and encourage union membership and will usually be the first point of contact with the union for new and existing members in your workplace. You will also be the essential contact with SWU Officials to enable up to date information and ideas to be exchanged. Each SWU Union Contact has the support and guidance of a Trade Union Organiser who will meet with you regularly to ensure SWU retains strong links with our Contacts and members.

***All Union Contacts will be reimbursed out of pocket expenses, will receive access to free General Federation of Trade Union (GFTU) Training and access to online professional development training from Dr Neil Thompson (Avenue Professional Development Programme).***

#### Being a SWU Union Contact gives you access to:-

- *Regular mentoring sessions with a SWU Trade Union Organiser*
- *Regular mailings and updates from SWU*
- *Access to SWU training, support and information*
- *Opportunities to recruit and encourage new members in the workplace and beyond*
- *Opportunities to promote and be involved in our campaigns*
- *Opportunities to get involved in events, rallies and demonstrations attended by SWU*

***SWU's future intention is to have at least one Union Contact in each workplace or large section and we need your support to make this a reality***

However we don't confine UCs to the workplace and therefore welcome retired members, social work students, unemployed members, and social workers in alternative roles (ie advocates, carers, agency staff).

***Simply being a member of SWU enables you to apply to undertake this important role***

## SOCIAL WORKERS UNION

### Who we are:

**The only UK Trade Union designated for and run by qualified and registered Social Workers**

- Opt into **SWU** membership for a minimal fee when you join **BASW**
- Two for the price of one (reduced for students), **Trade Union membership** and a **Professional Association**
- We offer a duty system Monday to Friday 9am to 4.30pm
- Part of a strong collective where **YOU** can be active and make a change
- Access to experts in representation at UK Regulatory Councils
- Advice to members from day one of membership\*
- Receive monthly ebulletins

\* Certain conditions apply including pre-existing issues and non-representation covering first 3-months of membership.

***If you are interested in getting active and involved in SWU please contact:***

***Carol Reid, National Organiser***

***Telephone: 07375 496315 • Email: carol.reid@swu-union.org.uk***

Wellesley House, Birmingham, B2 5PP

Twitter: @SWU\_UK • Facebook.com/socialworkersunionuk/ • www.swu-union.org.uk

