
BFAWU ULR Network meeting October 2023

Need for ULRs

Turn out wasn't great at the meeting, which prompted a discussion about the valuable role that Union learner reps play in the union, we need more of them in branches to ensure members have access to the learning that they want and need to. The funding might have been stopped in England, but that shouldn't stop branches electing ULRs and them fulfilling the role.

Where there is still funding in place, we need to ensure that ULRs are elected and not fully reliant on the project workers but going to them for support for funding opportunities or course proposals.

National Committee

Hopefully the new larger committee which will meet for the first time as a group in January will help to revitalize the member learning opportunities and number of ULRs in the union. The meetings will be slightly different as the project managers won't attend full meetings as they have in the past, instead the ULR committee will plan and bring them in for updates and reports so that the committee takes ownership of the discussions and recommendations to the executive council like the national health and safety committee does.

Potential for funding

There are currently pots of funding via the TUC in Birmingham, Newcastle, West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire, hopefully that will extend further, ULRs in branches in those areas should be encouraged to engage with the project workers and access the courses available for members, in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, the projects are still being funded with the relevant policies and guidelines to work to.

There is also places such as Nottingham college where L.Greenfield works and The Ronn Todd Foundation that can support, and we will look at others too for the next Network meeting.