

Text for ESH email - Disabled Members

Welcome to my fifth email of 2018. It is only two weeks since



I last wrote, but a lot seems to have been happening.

Executive level discussions about Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) continue. We have been reviewing the information many of you sent in from around the regions and Wales in which you explain how the activity grants for MHFA

and mindfulness have been used. The committee responsible for employment rights and health and safety have also been discussing the usefulness of MHFA. They are still considering their recommendations. The Organising and Membership committee has now agreed to support a one day course as part of the national reps training course which would look at the root cause of work related mental ill health and include elements of MHFA in terms of enabling colleagues to spot symptoms, offer initial help and guide them towards support. This course would be in addition to the “organising around mental health” course currently in development. Attendees would be encouraged to become health and safety reps, In light of the NEU undertaking to run these courses, local associations will be advised not to run their own MHFA courses. Mindfulness courses would also not receive any further grant funding.

I will be attending the health and safety working group on June 11th to discuss these matters further.

You may recall that in a previous email I was celebrating the fact that a motion had been passed at executive stating the three senior organising posts (one each for LGBT+, Disabled and Black members) would continue to exist in the NEU.

We considered this again at the executive and it looked likely that only two posts would be left in the new structure. Not surprisingly, I was very disappointed about this and asked for the matter to be reconsidered.

I'm pleased to say that all three posts have now been reinstated into the structure, along with a national equality organiser. By the time you read this, the JEC will have approved the posts at their meeting on May 24th.

We all need to continue to work hard to avoid the interests of disabled members are in not marginalised as we move forward into the NEU.

On a brighter note, we will be joining together with disabled members of the ATL section at the TUC Disabled Workers conference next week in Bournemouth. I'll let you know about the motions passed and how we all got on in my next email.

Finally, applications for the Disabled members' conference on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st October (lunchtime to

lunchtime) at the Oxford Belfrey Hotel are about to go live.
Please look at the NEU website for more details.

I'd appreciate any comments via my email:

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