

Sunderland carers ready to strike over equal pay



Hundreds of Sunderland care workers have voted overwhelmingly for strike action in anger over equal pay.

More than 300 staff at Sunderland Care and Support (SCAS) voted in favour of industrial action during the indicative ballot, which closed today [Friday].

GMB will now open a full, legal strike ballot in the coming days

The women workers have an equal pay claim against Sunderland Council after the authority outsourced the service.



This mean they were denied access to the Local Government Pension Scheme and paid less than male colleagues doing work over similar value to the council.

GMB Union has a second claim against the council based on discrimination against female dominated roles such as teaching assistants and catering staff.

Joyce Guthrie, GMB Organiser, said:

"This is an historic result in the fight for equal pay.

"The overwhelming mandate for action should be a wake up call to Sunderland's leadership. They can't avoid this issue anymore. Carers are done waiting.

"If Sunderland doesn't step up and make this right, they will be letting down not only hundreds of working women but also those they care for every day.

"The response from the public and the wider council staff to the SCAS campaign has been inspiring.

"On the back of this result GMB will now also ballot the wider council staff for industrial action on equal pay."

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