

# Continue the progress with Labour to

As the Scottish Parliament elections approach on Thursday 1 May, UNISON LabourLink is outlining its ambition of revitalising public services in Scotland.

Since the creation of the Scottish Parliament in 1999, a lot has been done to address the concerns of people at work and to begin to renew Scotland's public services. Nevertheless, UNISON

“policies... have made a real difference to the lives of working people in Scotland”

LabourLink believes there have been instances where the Scottish Executive has got it wrong – and we have said so forcefully. Whilst we have our disagreements, there have been many positive policies pursued by the Labour-led Executive that have made a real difference to the lives of working people in Scotland.

Labour in the Scottish Parliament has done a great deal to turn around the 18 Tory years of neglect in Scotland. Much has

been achieved, but there is still much more to do.

## In the workplace

the Labour-led Scottish Executive has:

- Signed the Memorandum of Understanding guaranteeing unions will be consulted on policy proposals.
- Agreed the PPP Staffing Protocol – a significant step to ending the two tier workforce across the public sector.
- Established the Close the Gap campaign to end pay discrimination between men and women.
- Placed 98,000 more people in jobs.

In Local Government the Labour-led Scottish Executive has:

- Secured an increase in funding to enable councils to plan services and retain staff.
- Delivered a long term deal which begins to tackle low pay.

## revitalise our public services

- Ended the Compulsory Competitive Tending regime which drove down pay and conditions for low paid, mainly women workers.
- Legislated to reform local government capital borrowing restraints to allow local authorities to borrow to invest.

## On Health

the Labour-led Scottish Executive has:

- Developed partnership working with trade unions and the NHS in Scotland.
- Brought most contracted out services back into the NHS in Scotland.
- (Cont overleaf)
- Provided 1,400 more doctors and nurses in the NHS, and guaranteed a job for all new nurses and midwives.
- Nationalised the HCI Hospital.



Throughout the election campaign UNISON members are delivering Scotland's public services

# Continue the progress - real achievements

- Signed a new deal to address low pay in the health service.

On **Social Justice** the Labour-led Scottish Executive has:

- Provided free personal and nursing care for older people.
- Repealed Section 2A which stigmatised lesbian and gay workers.
- Developed a national campaign to tackle Domestic Abuse.
- Provided free local bus travel to pensioners and disabled people.
- Installed 8,500 central heating systems in homes of some of Scotland's most vulnerable people – providing new jobs and skills training.
- Initiated new action to tackle sectarianism and racism in Scotland.

On **Education & Young People**

the Labour-led Scottish Executive has:

- Provided a nursery place for all 3 and 4 year olds.
- Achieved smaller class sizes in Primary 1,2 and 3, and employed classroom assistants to support teachers.

UNISON's APF is our special political fund that is affiliated to the Labour Party. Its organisation in Scotland is headed by **Dave Watson**. He can be contacted at UNISON House, 14 West Campbell Street, Glasgow G2 6RX. Tel 0870 7777 006. [d.watson@unison.co.uk](mailto:d.watson@unison.co.uk)

All local branches also have APF officers. Contact either for further information or to join UNISON and/or the Affiliated Political Fund

- Returned Careers Scotland to the public sector.
  - Scrapped the student tuition fees replacing them with the Graduate Endowment Tax.
  - Facilitated 60,000 more enrolments in FE and HE.
  - Provided new support for life-long learning and trade union learning representatives.
- Whilst the first four years of devolution haven't been perfect, strong foundations have been built for the future. These are real achievements that are improving the lives of working people in Scotland. In our continuing dialogue with Labour UNISON LabourLink is advancing our case to revitalise public services in Scotland, calling for:

equal innovative resourced  
networking participatory  
visionary measured integrity  
accountable open

- Public investment to revitalise Scotland's public services.
- Open, transparent and democratically accountable public services.
- Fair employment standards in Best Value processes.
- Stable funding for the voluntary sector.
- Funding directed to frontline NHS services.

- Appropriate resources for the cross cutting service provision of Joint Future.
- Training and learning opportunities for all public service staff.

Scottish Labour is focussing on the issues that matter to UNISON members: health, education, jobs and crime. Labour will not be distracted by constitutional upheaval; renewing public services is the top priority. Ensure that Labour leading in the Scottish Parliament can continue the progress.

Vote Scottish Labour on  
1st May!

For information about UNISON's Revitalise our Public Services Campaign, check out the UNISON website at [www.unison-scotland.org.uk](http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk)