

**Manifesto for  
Education**  
May 2012



**FOR PUBLIC  
SERVICES  
AND  
A BETTER  
SCOTLAND**

# LOCAL ELECTIONS

Every day we all use the services provided by local government. Many people don't even notice them: we take them for granted.

The council elections on May 3 will bring a much-needed focus on the importance of local government and the essential services it provides.

Here are some key points from our UNISON Scotland manifesto *For Public Services and a Better Scotland* and some questions for you to put to your local candidates ahead of the elections.

Use your vote on May 3 and vote for candidates who stand up for public services.

UNISON  
Scotland

FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND A BETTER SCOTLAND



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PUBLIC WORKS:

UNISON Scotland  
Local Government  
Summary Manifesto  
May 2012

Download the full manifesto  
[www.unison-scotland.org.uk](http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk)



## EDUCATION

UNISON Scotland is committed to the modern comprehensive principle rooted in our belief in a decent society. Every child should have a genuinely equal chance of the best education in its local school. We should look to Finland for inspiration, not Sweden or the USA. Finland consistently tops world rankings for both the achievement of their ablest students and across all levels of ability.

The provision of integrated services that provide high quality education, childcare and additional support to our youngest citizens and their families, is instrumental in reducing the effects of child poverty and supporting the best outcomes for children in the future.

Keeping education under local authority control is the best way to ensure that the services that families and children need are properly integrated.

The control of local authorities also ensures the best balance between local democratic control and economies of scale. Our experience shows us that moving staff out of local authorities leads to a reduction in wages and conditions for staff. Low paid women in particular suffer. UNISON believes that a national set of terms and conditions is the best way to protect staff and the services they deliver.

Appropriate resources are needed to deliver on the principles in Getting it Right for Every Child and the Early Intervention Strategy.

## QUESTIONS TO

- Who should run schools and nurseries?
- How will you fund the school building and repair programme?
- What role do you think parent volunteers should have in schools?



This includes investment in the whole team of professional, technical and administrative staff - not just teachers.

There is a strong economic case for universal childcare. The high cost of childcare is a major barrier to work for many mothers.

The Quebec government found that its investment in childcare was self-financing because of the increase in taxation from the number of women returning to work.

We believe that publicly funded and provided childcare will support children to achieve their full potential and make work pay for parents. Someone with an SVQ level four qualification (not necessarily a teacher) should lead all facilities.

This will create a career path for those delivering the service and help attract and retain high calibre workers to the Early Years workforce.

The Additional Support for Learning Act is welcome but, for it to work, schools require extra investment. Increasing pressure is being placed on staff to undertake roles in relation to the administration of medicines, intimate care and procedures for which staff do not have the appropriate training or qualifications.

There are increasing concerns for the safety of children with complex medical and support needs when there are no qualified medical staff in their schools.

**YOU VALUE THEM,  
SO VOTE FOR THEM.**

**USE YOUR VOTE  
FOR CANDIDATES WHO  
STAND UP FOR  
PUBLIC SERVICES  
ON MAY 3**

# PUT TO CANDIDATES

- Following the review of teachers' job roles what do you think the role of classroom assistants should be?
- Do you support free nursery education/ expansion of public sector nursery provision?

- How should the medical and intimate care needs of children in schools be met?

**PUBLIC  
WORKS**

# UNISON Scotland Manifesto for Education 2012



Public Works is UNISON Scotland's campaign for public services.  
For further information,  
or to join UNISON,  
call 0845 355 0845

**PUBLIC  
WORKS**

[www.unison-scotland.org.uk](http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk)

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