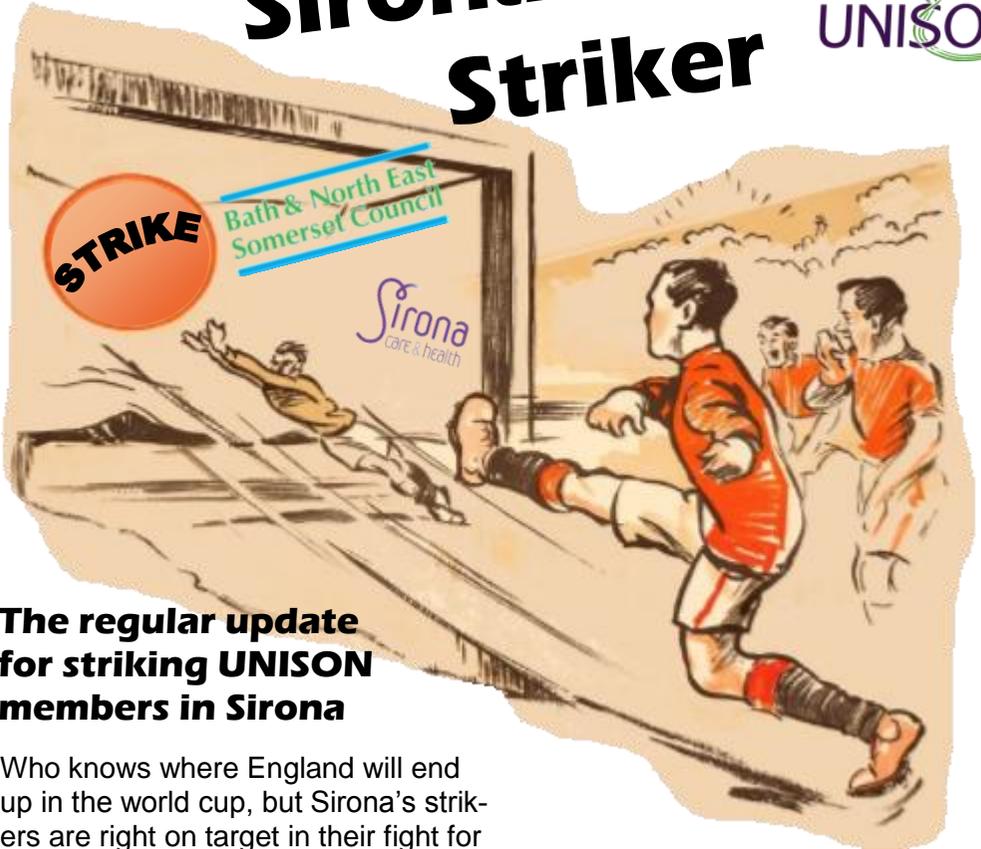


The Sirona Striker

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UNISON



The regular update for striking UNISON members in Sirona

Who knows where England will end up in the world cup, but Sirona's strikers are right on target in their fight for fair pay and hours!

Things kicked off with the whole team out for the HUGE 24 hour strike on 6 June. Dodgy barbeques aside, the care workers ruled the air-waves as TV and radio crews rolled up all day.

Above the car horns honking in support the reporters could just about hear person after person tell them what a foul move the Sirona pay cut and "work for free" plan is.

UNISON members in Sirona didn't just perform on the day—they've put in the hours since. Medals all round for the two-hour strikes that are testing Sirona's defence.

The fans are loving it with contributions pouring in to the hardship fund. Remember to get your forms in!

We're a long way from the final, but it's a solid 1-0 to the strikers so far!

The latest on the strike

Keep it up with the 2 hour strikes. These might not seem the most encouraging actions, but they are hitting Sirona where it hurts - in the pocket!

UNISON cancelled a few 2 hour strikes as a goodwill gesture before a meeting with B&NES council and Sirona bosses on Friday 15 June. Unfortunately, in the meeting both sides kept up their line of not having any money left.

B&NES say they haven't cut Sirona's money. Sirona say they have lost money. In the meeting we tried to clear this up. It seems Sirona negotiated a new contract with B&NES when Virgin-care took over lots of services. This has left less money for residential and extra care.

Please email and call your local councillors and MPs! And ask your friends and neighbours to do so as well. We need to show them we won't stop until they provide the money. UNISON will organise more lobbies soon

Sirona have taken the aggressive step to implement the unpaid breaks already. This can only be done to staff who have signed the new contracts. Sadly bank shifts can also be changed, but UNISON are looking into whether Sirona have given enough notice to do this

The next set of strikes will be very important to pile on the pressure. The reps and UNISON organisers have planned a schedule of action that will test Sirona bosses to the limit.

To Do List

1. Make sure UNISON have a copy of your latest payslip if you want to access the hardship fund
2. Save the date: 12 July, rally outside B&NES council.
20 July, rally outside Jacob Rees Mogg's office in Keynsham.
3. Fill out the striking staff survey telling us about the impact on you
4. Send an email or give a call to your local councillor. UNISON have a template letter you can use
5. Keep talking to your reps and keep an eye on your emails for the next strike dates

The hardship fund

UNISON cannot give you “strike pay” to replace earnings lost through industrial action. But we can run a hardship fund to help take the edge off and deal with any unexpected costs. Forms have been emailed round.

Contributions are coming in from far and wide. A big thank you to the union’s regional committee who put in £5,000 to kick things off.

If you know any local group who might be interested in hearing about the strike, contact UNISON! A rep or member can speak at the group’s meeting and they might make a contribution to the hardship fund.

Care workers on the brink: Why I’m on strike in Somerset today

Faced with council cuts, social care companies are slashing working conditions for low-paid staff. Enough is enough.



In the press

“The system relies on their willingness to go the extra mile, but this is a step too far.”

“We don’t want our relatives looked after on the cheap, yet that is what Sirona and B&NES Council are doing. If the plans go through quality of care will suffer as experienced staff are forced to leave.”

Woman of the Match



Margaret, a Sirona resident, insisted on being taken to the picket lines! Thanks Margaret



Care workers on strike for 24 hours over pay cut plans

Care workers from Bath & North East Somerset go on strike after shift changes could lose them up to £1,200

SomersetLive

Public service union Unison called it “a step too far”



Best of the facebook group



Making the most of a two hour strike!



Dave Prentis, UNISON general secretary, pays tribute to Sirona strikers

Up in #FBU18 conference and Sending the full support & #solidarity of South West #firefighters to striking care workers in @UNISONSW - All of us in @SouthWestFBU are right behind you! 🇬🇧🚒 #careforcarers @SWDrake



A tenant joins in the strike

Get in touch

Any questions about the strike or something happening at work? Your UNISON team is here to help!

Your reps:

Bernadette Yea
Andy McGuinness
Becky Mansyah
Debbie Rosser
Jess Ware

UNISON organisers

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