

the

UNION EDGE

GAINING THE SKILLS TO LEAD AND SUCCEED

20

AUGUST
*your summer
school invite*

+ PLUS

A review of
round two of
our lay leaders
training

GMB Education Unwrapped

Aithon Cooper, Doncaster Rep, explains why
GMB education is the best in the land

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www.gmb.org.uk

A message from your Education team

As the academic year wraps up, the NEYH region is proud to reflect on a successful 2024–25 education programme.



Over the past year, we delivered 321 days of training across four venues, welcoming 166 new GMB representatives.

We also celebrated the success of our Lay Leaders Training Programme, with 17 representatives earning their certification. A second cohort is already underway, with 8 more participants on track to complete their training later this year.

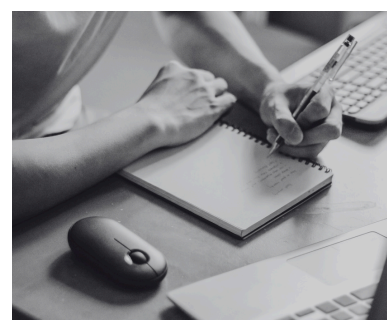
In response to growing demand, we expanded our offerings in health & safety and mental health training. Your feedback has shaped our future plans - and we're excited to announce that the 2025–26 programme will be our most ambitious yet! This year brings:

- **More training opportunities than ever before**
- **New providers and tutors joining our team**
- **Innovative trial courses and in-house training**
- **Expanded Lay Leaders and bespoke Teaching Assistant training**
- **More venues to improve accessibility**
- **And much more!**

We're committed to making education accessible, relevant, and responsive to your needs. Your voice matters - so we're inviting you to help shape the future of training in our region. And with that in mind we'd like you to follow this link and let us know what further training you'd like to see! <https://tinyurl.com/unionedge>

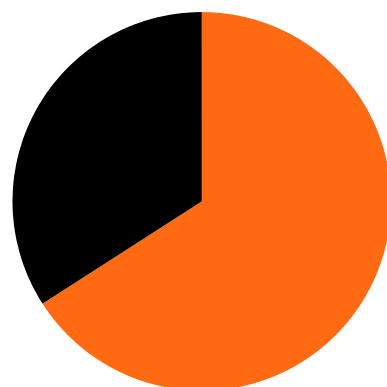
ROSEANNA FORD
Acting Education Officer

JESSICA CARRINGTON
Education Secretary



Education at a glance

● 321 ● 166



● Training Days
● New Reps

THE FUTURE'S BRIGHT

The 2025/26 Education Programme

We're excited to announce that the 2025–26 programme will be our most ambitious yet!

Now available at: <https://tinyurl.com/GMB-Education>

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INVITATION

*GMB Summer
School***This is your invite to the
GMB Reps' Summer School!**

The GMB education team is thrilled to invite all GMB reps across the region to two exciting Summer School events packed with learning, networking and inspiration.

Wakefield

Wednesday, 20 August 2025 from
10am – 3pm

Newcastle

Wednesday, 24 September 2025 from
10am – 3pm

What's on the Agenda?

- Mastering case work: Best practice approaches for GMB reps
- Introducing the New MCIP: Launch of the revised Membership Case Information Pack
- Campaign Power: Top tips for organising, mobilising and winning
- Politics in Action: Making politics matter in your campaigns
- Idea Exchange: Share your tips, tricks and fresh ideas with other reps

We'll provide a buffet lunch to keep you fuelled, along with some free GMB merchandise to take home.
Spaces are limited – reserve your spot now!

Click the link to register and secure your place at GMB Summer School:

<https://tinyurl.com/GMB-Summer-School>

A REP'S STORY

If you ask Aithon, GMB education is gold standard.

GMB training is second to none, and that's why I want to shout about it from the rooftops!

“

Hello, my name is Aithon Cooper, and I'm proud to serve as the Convenor for Doncaster Council. I've been in this role for just under a year - 10 months to be exact and what a journey it's been!



Coming from a 16-year career in care and being a GMB member for 13 of those years, stepping into this new position felt like diving into the deep end. It was a complete career shift, and at first, I felt like a fish out of water.

When I was elected, I quickly realised there were gaps in my knowledge, especially around union representation and the responsibilities that came with my new role. But I was reassured: *"Don't worry, everything you need to succeed is in our education department."* I'll admit, I was sceptical. But they were right.

GMB's education courses are a game-changer. They're designed not just to inform, but to empower - to help you grow both as a representative and as a person. They're easy to enrol on, accessible and genuinely supportive.

One course that stood out for me was the Lay Leaders programme. It helped ease my anxiety, gave me a clearer understanding of the bigger picture, and offered the chance to connect with other GMB colleagues across the region. It's not just about learning, it's about building confidence and community.

The knowledge I've gained has been vital, not just for my role, but for helping others. Being trained by the region's education team means I'm now equipped to support members facing injustice, whether it's dealing with misinformed managers or navigating complex HR issues. I can confidently advocate for their rights in the workplace.

If I had to sum up GMB's education in one phrase, it would be **'Gold Standard.'** I genuinely believe no other union does it quite like us.

THE FUTURE'S BRIGHT

Lay Leaders Round Two

Investing in the future: GMB's Lay Leaders, strong, dynamic and ready to lead the way



GMB is proud to be building the next generation of union leaders and our Lay Leadership course is at the heart of that mission. With the latest round of training already underway, there's still time to get involved and take your first step into leadership.

This exciting programme, led by Lisa Read from Real Clear, is rooted in the same high-quality training delivered to Regional Organisers, Women in Leadership and the Senior Management Team.

It's a unique opportunity to gain the tools, confidence and insight needed to lead with purpose and impact to ensure we deliver for our members and help grow the union.

The Lay Leadership course is structured around six powerful modules, each designed to develop key leadership capabilities.

We're currently working through Round 2 of our Lay Leaders course, and the

feedback so far has been overwhelmingly positive.

Participants are already seeing the benefits, both personally and professionally.

Lisa Read said: "This course isn't just about learning, it's about future-proofing GMB.

"By investing in GMB reps and activists, we're ensuring that the union remains strong, dynamic, and ready to face the challenges ahead."

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Stay Connected

Stay Connected with NEYH Education! We're not just in the classroom - we're online too! Follow us on social media to stay up to date with the latest training opportunities, behind-the-scenes content, success stories, and more:

YouTube - Watch the highlights, interviews and event recaps

Facebook - Join the conversation and keep informed

Bluesky - Get on board to hear the news

X (formerly Twitter) - Get quick updates and announcements

Instagram - See what's happening through photos, reels, and stories.

Let's keep learning, sharing and growing together



If you'd like to register an interest for the next Lay Leaders course please contact the education team.

neyh.education@gmb.org.uk