

# NOMINATE IAN WATKINSON NEU NEC DISTRICT 4 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lancashire, Merseyside, and Isle of Man

It was a privilege to be elected to the first ever NEU National Executive Committee just over 2 years ago, and then to be elected the first ever Chair of the NEU National Health & Safety Organizing Forum.



I am incredibly proud to have played a central role in shaping the union's **Covid-19** response.

From leading on the #OnlyWhenItsSafe campaign in May 2020, to organizing the Lancashire & Merseyside Tier 3 meetings in Autumn, to being instrumental and driving the union's emergency call for the blanket use of S44 - prompting the biggest union meeting & action on safety in history.

Health & Safety and protecting members, children and communities **MUST** remain a union priority and we need to do more. At the time of writing, despite a far more deadly and transmissible strain of the virus, government negligence has seen nursery & special schools effectively abandoned, with primary school key worker and vulnerable children attendance and class size numbers five times higher than last spring.

Taking groundbreaking health & safety action forced a government u-turn and saved countless lives. We must act again now and take further steps to bring KVV school attendance numbers down during partial opening, and we must listen to our members, organize, and prepare for taking further action to ensure that phased wider re-opening takes place **#OnlyWhenItsSafe**.

The NEU's national Covid-19 action has shown already how we can lead and be game changers for education. To maintain that now, and when we emerge from the Covid-19 crisis, we need a truly grassroots lay-led democratic union. Our members, lay officers and reps should be at the heart of everything we do, and we must put more resources into directly supporting and protecting them.

## LISTENING & PUTTING MEMBERS, REPS & LOCAL OFFICERS FIRST

- TAKING ACTION TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE OF EDUCATION WORKERS & COMMUNITIES
- TAKING ACTION ON WORKLOAD
- CAMPAIGNING FOR NATIONAL WORKING CONTRACTS
- SUPPORTING ACTION ON PAY & PENSIONS
- CAMPAIGNING TO REVERSE PRIVATISATION & AGAINST ACADEMISATION
- FIGHTING FOR SUPPORT & SUPPLY STAFF MEMBERS
- CAMPAIGNING FOR EQUALITIES
- SUPPORTING A VOICE FOR RETIRED MEMBERS

WIDER SCHOOL REOPENING

**ONLY WHEN**

**IT'S SAFE**



Chair: National Health & Safety Organising Forum

Chair: National Covid-19 Task Group

Chair: North West Health and Safety Group