



# UNISON

**Manchester Community & Mental Health Branch**  
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unison@zen.co.uk or c.bedale@btinternet.co.uk



# REINSTATE PUBLIC MEETING

All welcome

# KAREN REISSMANN

## We have a right to fight NHS cuts

Wednesday 25th July 6pm,  
Cross St Chapel, Cross Street,  
Manchester City Centre with speakers  
**Lillian Macer**, Chair UNISON Health Executive  
**Alan Hartman**, Manchester Users Network  
**Karen Jennings**, UNISON Head of Health  
**Dave Toomer**, NUJ national executive  
**Paul Taylor** CWU North West regional organiser

**A statement of support from the UNISON Health Group Executive on the suspension of UNISON member Karen Reissmann**

*Karen Reissmann, a leading trade union activist at Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust has been suspended by her employer. Karen is the UNISON Chairperson of the Manchester Community and Mental Health Branch and an elected member of the unions National Health Group Executive.*

*The Health Group Executive is deeply concerned that Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust has taken this harsh measure against a respected nurse and trade union official.*

*Furthermore we are alarmed about the manner in which the suspension was carried out. Our representations will include questions regarding this and the applicability of policies and procedures which led to such actions.*

*UNISON will vigorously defend our members right to speak out without fear of persecution and we will ensure that Karen will be supported throughout this process and that her interests will be positively defended.*

"Karen Reissmann who fights and speaks out for the Mental Health service deserves our full support. I cannot believe that the NHS no longer allows debate and criticism of its policies. Mental health is the poor relation of the NHS, but as more and more people experience mental health difficulties, it should not be. If it was not for people like Karen prepared to fight for quality services, it would be a third-world service. Mental health services and staff need more respect than ever now. Karen should be reinstated immediately."  
**Paul Abbott, creator/writer of TV's Shameless**

"Karen has always been a champion of her clients. She has always fought tirelessly to make sure they got the benefits, services and help they were entitled to."  
**Alan Hartman, Manchester**

"Karen helped set up the first carer's group. She was always willing to help with carer's issues. She is very supportive, caring, honest and reliable. She has my full support."  
**Gwen Barr, carer**

"I am shocked to hear Karen Reissmann is suspended. I know for a fact and personal experience that she has worked beyond the call of duty and has dedicated herself to the welfare of her patients and colleagues."  
**Dr Alex Theodossiadou, consultant psychiatrist**

### What can you do.

1. Send an email protesting to Shelia Foley, Chief executive of Karen's trust on Sheila.foley@mhsc.nhs.uk and send a copy to her union branch unison@zen.co.uk
2. Sign the petition and send to above address or fax 0161720 4700
3. Pledge donation to strike fund at above address