Jim Aitken
Education &
Development Officer



Unite is Britain's biggest union with 1.42 million members in every sector of the economy

125,000 members in Scotland



**Unite Lifelong Learning Projects in** 

Scotland (£246,000 per year)

**England (£1.9 million per year)** 

Northern Ireland (£65,000 per year)

Wales (£90,000)





48 learning organisers are highly motivated, qualified and focussed on building our union using lifelong learning as an organising tool

# The Learn with Unite

# vision

- Accessible lifelong learning courses in our workplace and the communities
- Standard and quality guaranteed
- Members development to reach full potential
- Flexible learning
- Create alternative education models
- Learning to enhance employment opportunities
- All activity measured



# Role of a Union Learning Representative

#### The ULR role involves:

- Promoting the value of learning
- Supporting learners
- Arranging learning/training
- Supporting workplace learning centres to embed learning in the workplace



# Role of a Union Learning Representative

#### **ULR statutory functions**

- Analysing learning or training needs
- Arranging and supporting learning and training
- Consulting the employer about carrying out such activities
- Preparing to carry out the above activities



# Role of a Union Learning Representative

# Statutory rights for ULRs and union members

- Union learning representatives are entitled to reasonable paid time off for training and for carrying out their duties
- Union members are entitled to unpaid time off to consult their learning representative, as long as they belong to a bargaining unit for which the union is recognised.



- Since 2012 over 700
   Unite Union Learning
   Representatives trained
- Over 90 learning agreements negotiated
- In excess of 100,000
   Unite members covered
   by a learning agreement
- Currently operating in over 1500 workplaces

