

Benefits and services for Community members

Community has a wide range of benefits and services that offer assurance and protection to members and their families at work and for life.

Child benefit



Community believes that our members' children are the future of our union and that's why we have launched the new Child Benefit Scheme. All members are invited to register their children who are under the age of 16 in the scheme. It is our intention that at key stages of the child's life member parents will receive gift vouchers for items such as school uniforms, books and equipment. At age 16, the child will receive a membership application form and access to advice and guidance relating to work and education.

Community was formed on 1 July 2004 and its Child Benefit Scheme was launched on 1 January 2008. Member parents of all children born or adopted on or after 1 July 2004 are eligible for a 'baby bonus' payment of £50. In further celebration of Community as a new union, member parents of children born or adopted on 1 July 2004 will receive an additional £50!

To register a child under the Child Benefit Scheme, members should complete the Child Benefit form available through branch secretaries, regional offices or the website. The 'baby bonus' is payable to any member upon the birth or adoption of a child of which they are a parent, providing they have held membership for at least 12 months before the child's birth. If both parents are members, then both can claim. Applications must be accompanied by a copy of the child's birth certificate, which must contain the name of at least one member as either the father or mother.

Benevolent Fund

The union's Benevolent Fund exists to provide assistance to members and their families who are experiencing severe financial difficulty. In 2008, 2p per week of your membership contributions will be invested in the Benevolent Fund. Your union has already invested £50,000 in the fund.

Applicants should apply to the Benevolent Fund via their branch secretary or regional office.

Bereavement benefit

This is an accrued benefit designed to assist your next of kin at that difficult time. Members will accrue £200 per annum for the first five years of membership, and £10 per annum thereafter (a total of £1,100 after 15 years' membership and £1,200 after 25 years' membership) until retirement. At retirement the benefit is capped and remains available for as long as you keep your membership as a non-working member. Unfortunately if you choose not to remain a retired member of the union, the benefit is lost. If a member has accrued a bereavement benefit and becomes unemployed, they retain their capped benefit if they remain a non-working member. When they return to work, they will continue to accrue their bereavement benefit. This enhanced benefit was launched on 1 January 2008 and is backdated and applicable to all members.

Application forms are available from branch secretaries, regional offices and the website. Completed application forms must be accompanied by a copy of the death certificate.

Strike and lock-out benefit

Community will ensure you don't experience financial hardship by continuing to support you when you need the backing of your union the most. Branch secretaries or regional offices should apply directly to the General Secretary.



Convalescence benefit

The Convalescence Benefit exists to provide members who have experienced serious illness or industrial injury with two weeks' rest and recuperation at the Railway Convalescent Home in Dawlish, Devon. Members can recover among the beautiful surroundings at Bridge House, with full board and all expenses paid.

Applications forms are available through branch secretaries and regional offices. Applications for convalescence benefit must be signed off by a doctor.



Communitas EU Ltd

Communitas is the education and training arm of Community and is a wholly owned not-for-profit company. Communitas accesses Government and European funding to provide members and their families with a range of lifelong learning opportunities and advice and support.

Visit www.communitas.eu.com or contact Communitas head office on 01562 749170

Alternatively, Communitas regional contacts are:

England: allansharp@communitas.eu.com
07801 253218

Scotland: geraldinedonnelly@communitas.eu.com
01698 304567

Wales: vernonlewis@communitas.eu.com
01495 306329

Other benefits

Community provides access to a range of offers and discounts through its partner organisations. Details and updates are provided regularly in this magazine and on the union website.

Legal support

If you have a problem you have enough worries without having to find the money to pay for legal advice and representation. Community has a nationwide network of solicitors on call to support you in your time of need – you simply can't afford to be without the union.

Free employment advice and representation for members:

Community provides free legal advice and support to members on employment-related matters.

Free personal Injury advice and support to members and their families:

Community will arrange for members and their families, who have been injured through no fault of their own, to receive free legal advice and representation in respect of any accident, injury or disease case.

Free Will-writing service:

Community can arrange for members to be provided with a basic Will free of charge. A basic Will is where the member leaves his estate to his partner and then to any surviving children. This service includes a 'mirror' will for a partner.

Free 'legal advice' service to members and families:

Community provides a free general legal advice service to members and their families. General advice subjects commonly include landlord and tenant issues, criminal law, welfare benefits and neighbour disputes.

Reduced rate* 'personal legal services' for members:

Where specialist services are required, such as conveyancing, probate and family issues, Community is able to deliver reduced-rate* 'personal legal services' to members, through its network of solicitors.

**rates for personal legal services are available on request.*

To take advantage of any of Community's legal services or to discuss other services you may require, contact our Member Service Centre on Freephone 0800 389 6332 or email servicecentre@community-tu.org



What do you think...?



We are constantly striving to improve and build on our offers to you, and we are exploring new member benefits. We believe our package is the best deal around but we would like your views. What new benefits would you like to see and what benefits would you like us to develop further?

Please complete the members' survey contained in the magazine. Members can also contact us by visiting www.community-tu.org.