

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

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Schools Newsletter is Back !!



After a long absence your newsletter is back, better, brighter and more informative.

The overall theme of this regular newsletter is to keep you the members informed of what is going on at national and local level, we want to hear from you, the member, as it is your union, and without you we would no longer cease to be an effective bargaining voice within Local Government.

So come on! **We want to hear your stories, achievements etc.** To submit articles to this regular newsletter please send your articles to admin@liverpool-unison.co.uk.

This newsletter will be produced after each Educational Stewards Committee Meeting. The committee comprises elected stewards from Liverpool Schools and meet every 4 weeks. The next meeting is scheduled Friday 24th September at 10.00am start. The meetings are for elected stewards only, so if you are interested in attending these meetings and giving a voice for your members in your workplace you must be an elected steward. So come on members add to our growing list of stewards and get elected!!

Mike, "Secretary Education Stewards Committee"

Job Evaluation

The profiles some staff are being asked to sign if they relate to the SSSNB are DRAFT profiles, and not agreed with the trade unions.

If you are asked to sign your profile and you do not agree it is your job, or you have not been allowed to add comments or additional duties that are part of your job you do not have to sign.

The reason schools are not using the Gauge Systems, but are using a paper-based system, is that there have been difficulties in gaining access to our members in schools and the timescales being dictated by the Council.

If you have signed and do not agree with the outcome you may appeal. An appeal process forms part of the JE exercise it has yet to be agreed but should cover this particular issue.

The Council's timescale for implementation is unrealistic and they are currently looking at the process so far and will shortly give the trade unions and staff an update.

Angela "Branch Secretary"

ACADEMIES UNISON WRITES TO ALL HEADTEACHERS

UNISON IS WRITING TO THE HEADTEACHERS OF EVERY SCHOOL ASKING THEM TO THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE APPLYING FOR ACADEMY STATUS.

If you would like a copy of this letter please let me know - pat@liverpool-unison.co.uk

Michael Gove Education Secretary for the Con-Dem coalition has stated that businesses are free to profit from our education system. He has stated that, however, improvement will be driven by professionals not profit makers. Business, as I understand economy, is a professional profit maker, that's kind of how it works. Unless he genuinely believes that a governing body 'free' from local authority control will be free from the control of the sponsors edicts, he isn't painting a fair picture.

I understand the impetus for school improvement, but our children's education should not be driven by the businesses that sponsor academy establishments. Mr Gove wants to allow that schools generate profit, or that firms should be free to make money from schools – including from teaching itself.

All outstanding schools have been given the opportunity to be fast-tracked to academy status but with a caveat that they are expected to take an underperforming school 'under their wing'. Should said underperforming school become outstanding, would they then be eligible to fast track toward academy status.

The question one should perhaps be asking is, exactly how are schools expected to make money? There is no product from education that cannot be viewed in any terms other than the suitability of leavers to engage effectively within the society to which they chose to belong to.

To find profit from this is akin to suggesting that some of the available resource for education (or ensuring young people are equipped to engage with society) is diverted toward the generation of wealth.

However; Local authorities (with your money) built our schools and have maintained our education system for years. It is your money that created the world recognised education system in the United Kingdom.

Through taxation, education is supported and the children of our society learn. The assets of the people of the United Kingdom are being auctioned off to the business sector for a nominal percentage of their true value.

Teachers and support staff have their terms and conditions negotiated nationally. They have instructed their representative organisations to defend those terms and conditions. The national curriculum (secondary) has the intended outcomes;

- **achieve high standards and make better progress**

- **narrow the gap and enable those not achieving age-related expectations at age 11 to catch up with their peers**
- **have and be able to use high-quality personal, learning and thinking skills (PLTS) and become independent learners**
- **have and be able to use high-quality functional skills**
- **be challenged and stretched to achieve their potential**
- **Have increased commitment to and enjoyment of learning leading to participation to 19 and beyond.**

Do you believe your child's school should have freedom from such principals on the say so of the Principal (who may be paid £180,000 by BP, E.ON or Reebok)?

Teachers and support staff are concerned with education and learning. This is the substance of their working lives. They are dedicated and understand the principles by which they perform their duty. A national curriculum is designed to provide a standard of education across the board, rich or poor, regardless of gender or ethnicity.

It has been suggested that business is good for schools. What would a McDonald's school teach our children about nutrition for example? What would a John West school teach about the ethics of over fishing?

We have to ask the question, will business help education? Business might well help education but it will do so for the gains it can make and in terms of the profit that can be made. No corporation is philanthropic. Vodafone will dictate pupils are educated about communications and GlaxoSmithKline the pharmaceutical industry. All sponsors will ensure the accounts balance and include the necessary indicators of business growth. There is no other option.

It has been observed that academies are not democratically accountable. Governors are appointed by the sponsor and the sponsor controls the curriculum. Ownership of the buildings and ground are transferred to the private sponsor. They create selection issues because they set their own admission policy. Estelle Morris illustrated the issue succinctly; "Show me a school which has changed its admissions policy to attract more children from poor background with uncooperative parents."

Fast-tracking to academy status in the current offer leaves no time for appropriate, legally required consultation.

Pat "UNISON Education Convenor"

BSF. Axing of Liverpool Scheme could cost 1500 Jobs!!



One of the few Liverpool Schools Saved from the cuts

It is estimated the scrapping of Liverpool's £350 million secondary school building programme will cost the equivalent of at least 1,500 full time jobs.

Plans for 26 schools to be rebuilt or completely modernised under Wave Six of Buildings Schools for the Future Was abandoned by Education Secretary Michael Gove.

An estimated 1,000 full time equivalent construction jobs would have been created in the design, construction and maintenance of the schools.

A further 320 full time equivalent posts through the creation of a Local Education Partnership (LEP) to deliver the scheme will now not happen, together with 200 apprenticeships.

In addition to the £350 million capital cost of the scheme, a further £50 million of ICT investment and £10.5 million of cleaning and maintenance management contracts will also be lost - bringing the total amount of finance lost to £410.5 million.

Council Leader Joe Anderson said: "These figures show the huge impact of the cost of axing the Building Schools for the Future programme.

"It is not just our children's education that is being put at risk, there is a huge knock on effect for the local economy at a time when the

construction industry is crying out for contracts.

"The true number of workers affected will be far higher because a large amount would have been part time and for fixed periods.

"I am also concerned at the impact on the ongoing regeneration of the city, because decent schools help build solid communities where people want to live. Much of our housing market renewal programme was based around the school rebuilding scheme.

"We are also faced with a headache over what to do now with sites such as the former Littlewoods Building on Edge Lane which was earmarked to be the new location for Archbishop Blanch and St Hilda's.

"We will be doing everything in our power to lobby the government and secure what investment we can, now they have decided we cannot proceed with Wave Six.

"Many of the school buildings are in a poor state of repair and we have to do what we can to modernise them."

Council officials estimate that every £1 that would have been spent on the scheme would have been worth £2.84 to the local economy in terms of construction.

A top level delegation has already been secured to lobby the government about the importance of the scheme.

Pupils from Liverpool Schools Parliament have debated an emergency resolution and are set to launch a campaign against the decision.

Building work on the six schemes under Wave 2 of Building Schools for the Future, worth around £150 million and currently under construction, is not affected.

Source "Liverpool Ednet"

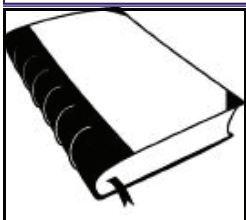
Vetting and Barring Scheme Under Review

Home Secretary, Theresa May, announced on 15 June that the rollout of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) Vetting and Barring Scheme (due to start 26 July 2010) has been **halted** to allow the Government to “redraw the Scheme to common sense levels”.

UNISON has sent a letter (on behalf of a joint TUC coalition) to the Home Office seeking a meeting to discuss the government’s ideas, the timescale for the review and to raise our concerns including the impact of the cost of ISA registration on individuals, the duplication with existing regulation by professional registration bodies, and the need to ensure that individuals have the right to a fair hearing. At the moment we do not know how far the review may go toward addressing these concerns.

Further details of the process for remodelling the Scheme will be announced shortly and we will provide members with this information as soon as it is available.

UNISON Learning Rep!!



I am Donna Lomax, I am a ULR. I work as an SA at St Teresa's Lisieux infant school. My role is to encourage support members into learning. I am involved in a “Six Book Challenge” at the moment which is getting a good feedback, plus other educations stewards wish to take this up. I would like to see ULR in all schools or at least 1 in 3 schools. As most support staff don't get training, I think all members should have learning opportunities if they wish. I can be contacted at

donna.lomax@hotmail.co.uk

“Did you know a Learning Rep is entitled to paid time off to perform their duties so if you are interested in becoming a UNISON Learning Rep please contact Calvin at your local branch or drop him an email calvin@liverpool-unison.co.uk”

Donna “UNISON Learning Rep”

SSSNB Visits “Liverpool Schools”

Since June 2009 3 UNISON members volunteered their services to UNISON, they were to go out to Liverpool schools and spread the word about the upcoming SSSNB. Appointments were made with schools and the team took to the floor to deliver and answered questions on the SSSNB. We visited over 120 schools between us and 110 new members were recruited.

On behalf of the team we wish to thank all Headteachers and Support staff who were very accommodating .

“If your school has not yet received a visit please contact the branch office”

Free will making service for UNISON Members



Did you know through our partner solicitors Thompson's, you are entitled to a free Will-making service, with also reduced rates for family.

Thompson also offer other benefits to you. More details can be found on visiting this link.-www.thompsons.law.co.uk/Unison/wills.htm

EQUAL PAY - don't be fooled

We have been told that some staff won't accept the buy-out payments because they are being intimidated or given wrong information that in accepting, it will put theirs, and their colleagues' jobs at risk of redundancy because the school can't afford these payments. The offers are made by the City Council, the employer, to staff who are **ENTITLED** to these payments—the school's budget will be adjusted over a 20 YEAR period! If you are offered a payment, and want to accept it—then do so. Using equal pay as an excuse for redundancies is not a legitimate reason. There will be solicitors, ACAS and trade union officials at the buy-out events to advise staff.

We hope you found our first newsletter informative and enjoyable. We will endeavour to produce a regular newsletter for you, and behalf of our stewards committee we wish everyone a happy and deserved summer break!!