

Update on SNCT Working Groups 26 May 2010

SNCT Conditions of Service Working Group

The Conditions of Service Working Group has had a number of meetings discussing the annual leave arrangements in relation to sickness absence and maternity leave. Interim advice was issued on 23 February 2010. The Working Group completed its work and the draft circular is set out separately on the Agenda. This draft circular includes legislative changes related to the introduction of fitness to work statements.

The Working Group also finalised a draft circular arising from the requirement for Educational Psychologists to be registered by Health Professions Council. The requirement for chartered status is no longer required for employment or for incremental progression. A draft circular is set out separately on the Agenda.

The detailed discussion on leave has created a considerable backlog on other issues in front of this Working Group. It is noted that a sub group has been set up to consider Accelerated Incremental Progression. This group has had an initial meeting.

SNCT Review of LNCTs Working Group

The Working Group issued interim advice to LNCTs on the SNCT requiring further information on workload issues and how LNCTs are addressing workload pressures. A questionnaire to focus discussion was discussed and had been circulated around the Working Group before issue.

The Working Group also intended to produce an update for SNCT on the number of local agreements entered on the website. An interim result is appended. However, all LNCTs will be provided with a further letter seeking all local agreements to be entered on the website.

The Working Group has also considered maintenance of the website. Scottish Government has investigated the nature of contractual agreements with Union Digital and confirmed that the work done by them so far on the website was done on a "one off" basis and there is no formal maintenance contract in place with them. Further initial enquiries under current Scottish Government procurement arrangements have indicated that there may no longer be a framework contract in place with Union Digital and therefore the group will need to consider options for future maintenance of the website.