

Update on SNCT Working Groups September 2006

Conditions of Service Working Group

The working group continues, with the assistance of the technical sub-group, to focus on the work to develop a new scheme of conditions. A good number of responses were received from “readers” of the draft scheme and it is clear that there is further work to be done in incorporating these into the new scheme. The work resulting from the comments received have impacted on our projected timescales. and the working group is therefore unable to furnish SNCT with a draft scheme at this meeting.

The working group will meet on the 22 September 2006 and a further verbal update will be given at the SNCT meeting.

The technical group dealing with Educational Psychologists, Quality Improvement Officers and Education Support Officers will meet when research into the conditions applied across councils has been completed.

Support Staff Working Group

The last meeting of the working group was cancelled as we had been unable to arrange dates for visits to councils. Dates for Joint Chairs visits have now been fixed for November and a choice of dates will be offered to councils.

The group will also be seeking to develop good practice guidance for councils in relation to this element of the agreement and working group members are turning their attention to considering examples of good practice and how these might be built upon to provide meaningful examples to councils. It is intended that detailed consideration can be given to this issue at a meeting in mid November.

LNCT Review Working Group

The group meets next in October and will start to consider what a code of practice on collegiality will look like. At future meetings the group will consider findings of the further evidence gathered in relation to the monitoring and evaluation of working time agreements.

The group at its last meeting discussed the letter issued on 4 September which sought further evidence from LNCTs. The group was unanimous in concluding that to seek this further evidence by end of October was unrealistic given the position reported by the majority of councils in March/April this year and the most likely result would be a further progress report. The group recommended to Joint Chairs that this element of evidence gathering be pushed back into the next year (February), though it was agreed that it should be asked for now. It was also agreed that both sides would continue to press the 6 LNCTs who had not responded to do so.