



Notes of the PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS MEETING held on TUESDAY  
16 NOVEMBER 1999 at 3.30 pm

**Present:** Professional Association Representatives:

K Burningham (NUT) (in the Chair)  
S Hopkinson (NAHT)  
T Winter (teacher representative on Education Committee)  
T Netherclift (NASUWT)

Officers:

S Wadsworth (Pupil Services Manager)  
T Mabbott (Committee Manager)

**Apologies:** R Conibear (SHA)

**ACTION**

**1.0 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 21 September 1999 and 19 October 1999 were approved.

**2.0 BUDGET 2000/01**

An update was received on the budget situation. It was reported that the potential savings outlined at the previous meeting would need to be carried out, although it was hoped that there would be additional funding from central government for areas of educational spending, such as early years provision.

**3.0 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) REVIEW**

The meeting received an update on the progress of the SEN Review, and noted the latest set of SEN statistics, which were due to be reported to the meeting of Education Committee on 7 December.

It was noted that the overall number of referrals from schools had dropped. Although the reasons for this were not completely clear, the hope was expressed that some credit could be attributed to the effectiveness of the Early Intervention Project.

Concern was expressed at the increasing amount of time that pupils had to wait to receive written statements. This was partly as a result of staffing changes, but also due to the increased use of notices in lieu instead of formal statements, and increased scrutiny of whether pupils meet criteria at an early stage.

Professional Associations expressed concern that the process would be duplicated for those pupils with notices in lieu who then required a formal statement. It was agreed that this issue needed to be brought to the attention of the LEA by parents and schools.

#### **4.0 CASTLES SCHOOL UPDATE**

Professional Association Representatives expressed concern that some staff had been placed on temporary contracts by the school, and noted that the uncertainty of the situation had caused problems.

#### **5.0 JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA**

The meeting considered items on the agenda for the meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee, to be held later that day.

#### **6.0 EDUCATION COMMITTEE AGENDA**

The meeting considered items on the agenda for the meeting of the Education Committee, to be held on 7 December 1999.

#### **7.0 REDUNDANCIES**

The meeting received an update on the current situation with regard to redundancies and early retirements.

Concern was expressed at the staffing implications of any reduction in funding for EMAG, formerly Section 11 funding. It was noted that Heads in target schools would be contacted to discuss the Standards Funds bid for this, and that the LEA was hopeful that schools would continue to buy in the service.

#### **8.0 STANDARDS FUND**

It was noted that, although the overall level of Standards Fund grant had increased for the coming financial year, a greater proportion of the grant was expected to come from the LEA than in previous years.

**10.0 DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was agreed that the dates of meetings to be held in the Spring term 2000 would be agreed after the meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4.20 PM