

EIS Meeting Local Association Minutes
Secondary Schools Support Service Building
12.6.13

4.1:0 Constitution of the meeting:

Chair: G. Wright

Minute: T. Barker

Present: Lisa Adam, Teresa Barker, Rona Bowie, Wendy Cowan, Rosie Dempster, Karen Farrell, Lynsey Hunter, Gordon Joyce, Shena Waldron, Graeme Wright.

4.1:2 Apologies: Gavin Hunter

4.2:1 Minutes Accuracy:

Minutes agreed as accurate-

Proposed: L. Hunter

Seconded: W. Cowan

4.3:1 Secretary's Update

N/A - see apologies

4.4:1 Treasurer's Update:

K. Farrell reported that all the accounts were up-to-date pending the submission of any other outstanding receipts for the AGM in May. Attendees to pass these on as soon as possible.

4.4:2 Further to discussion with attendees from other LAs, K. Farrell has some further suggestions she will share at the next meeting about the funding for meals and expenses and how this could be improved. It was also agreed that early booking for next year's event would be beneficial to secure adequate and well located accommodation for all delegates.

4.4:3 Accounts will be submitted in August.

4.5:1 Learning Rep. Update

A Forth Valley network of Learning Reps has been set up with a first meeting scheduled for after the holidays in August. They

hope to work together to take forward the CPD agenda in time for new formats being published soon.

4.6:1 **Executive Meeting Dates/Times**

Meeting dates for next session agreed (to be confirmed) as:

Wednesday 28th August 2013 at 4.15pm - SSSS
Wednesday 2nd October 2013 at 4.15pm - SSSS
Wednesday 6th November 2013 at 4.15pm - SSSS
Wednesday 18th December 2013 at 4.15pm - SSSS
Wednesday 29th January 2014 at 4.15pm - SSSS
ABM already scheduled for March 4th 2014

4.7:1 **AOCB**

K .Farrell suggested the new area officer be invited to the second meeting of the session. This was agreed for 2nd October 2013.

4.7:2 K .Farrell suggested the EIS be represented at the new probationers' training event on 20th June in Stirling. G Hunter possibly planning to attend. She suggested that they also be invited along to a meeting in the new session to raise awareness of the role of the EIS and to promote involvement by new staff.

4.7:3 G. Joyce suggested the local association make a donation to the proposed Joint Fellows Lunch.

4.7:4 W. Cowan raised the issue of the impact of Attendance Management Policy on services and resources. On occasion, colleagues were being asked to attend Occupation Health sessions held in Stirling. This often resulted in excessive travelling time for teachers, additional time spent at appointments and caused unnecessary expense and disruption to services. This would often result in cover costs too, in times of austerity.

4.7:5 Delegates from the recent AGM shared some feedback from the conference:

- Generally felt it was a very positive and productive event
- Crackdown on workload campaign main focus - need to reduce unnecessary paperwork a priority (planning, tracking etc)

- Mike Russell attended and voiced support for the need to reduce teachers' paperwork.
- The question about "access" to a nursery teacher was asked but no definitive answer given
- Numbers of nursery teachers nationally continues to cause concern
- Ongoing discussions about pensions but seems the issue is unlikely to be resolved under current financial constraints

4.7:6 G. Wright raised concerns about the council's IT approach to the withdrawal of access to sites such as Youtube and Facebook. Access to such sites had been withdrawn from services with no notice, impacting on planned lessons and pupil progress. It was suggested that there needs to be a more sensible approach to the use of such sites with teachers taking the responsibility to monitor pupils' access in the same way they would other resources. It was felt that 'blanket' decisions about access to websites seemed to be unhelpful to staff. It was agreed the matter should be raised at LNCT

4.7:6 T. Barker raised the issue of equitable access to vacancies for staff across Stirling and Clacks. Transparency of procedures and consistent forms of advertising jobs would be useful. Several members have raised concerns about vacancies being filled without them knowing jobs were even available. Some acting posts appear to be advertised and some are not, some posts are emailed around but not all staff seem to receive information in a timely manner, sometimes with too little notice to apply. Transparency would be beneficial to all staff. It was agreed the matter should be raised at LNCT.

4.7:7 **Nursery Teachers' Update**

R. Dempster gave an update on the position of the NTs in Clacks:

- New NTs have now been appointed
- All nurseries will now have a teacher
- Few of the new appointees have early years experience and would benefit from mentoring/support
- Opportunities for regular meetings would be hugely beneficial to share good practice, provide mentoring and support and to foster team building
- A half day per month was suggested for this purpose

- R. Dempster to submit a proposal to Belinda Greer
- All nurseries have additional staffing built in for next session
- The experiences of all staff in a peripatetic role have been generally positive this year
- NTs have faced lots of changes in recent years
- The roles and responsibilities of EYWs and NTs are still unclear for staff
- Further clarification of roles, responsibilities, accountability and management structures is necessary. (line managers etc)
- Are EYW part of SLT in a school and NTs are not?
- NTs present requested support from the EIS to help them achieve some further clarification on these matters.