

Aberdeen EIS LA AGM

President's Report.

Dear Colleagues,

First of all, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2024 Aberdeen Local Association AGM.

Another year has passed and more challenges have been faced. As I write the Stand up for Quality Education campaign is in full swing. Research and consultation identified that supporting ASN, tackling excessive workload and pupil behaviour are the issues of greatest concern to members and as you know these are the focus of the campaign. I hope each school has received some of the promotion materials and these have helped to kick start some conversations. The socks were a particular talking point at my school!

On a serious note though, violence in our workplaces is completely unacceptable. In no other workplace would the levels of violence faced by colleagues be tolerated. Recent work by our LA secretary Ron on our latest Violent and Aggressive Behaviour Report, which you should all have seen by now, highlights the growing problem. This is the third in a series of reports on this topic dating back to 2019 and it shows just how urgent the campaign on pupil behaviour has become. Over a third of respondents stated they had been assaulted this session and two thirds had been verbally abused. This simply cannot continue.

We should not have to console colleagues who have been victims of violence and abuse. We have a right to go to work and not fear another assault or torrent of foul abuse that would get you thrown out of even the roughest bars in town. In no other area of Aberdeen City Council would this be accepted as part of the job. Can you imagine what the reaction would be to the behaviour we experience if it was to manifest at Marischal College or the Town House?

Turning to our pay, we have just received the last rise as part of our successful Pay Attention campaign and the national pay claim has recently been submitted. (More on that [here](#).) I sincerely hope our employers recognise the urgency of ensuring that teachers pay is restored to the real terms level of 2008. Hopefully negotiations will be completed well in advance of the new settlement date of the 1st of August.

Now, some thanks. I would like to thank our LA secretaries Ron, Heather and now Zem as they continue to wrestle with a huge workload, and the Stand Up campaign. They have strived tirelessly to support members across the city with herculean efforts in the face of a spiralling case load. I must also mention and thank Lynne Reith who has left her position as admin assistant for the branch to spend more time with her family. Her constant excellent work supporting the Local Association has already been sorely missed.

Finally, I would like to thank all my fellow members of the executive, past and present for their tireless support and dedicated work for the Local Association.

This is my third AGM as President and it has been another extraordinary year for Aberdeen teachers. I can only hope that the next year is marginally calmer and we make the progress we deserve in the Stand Up campaign for all our members and for Scottish education.

In Solidarity,

Doug Haywood