

CUMBRIA DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS



MINUTES OF DIVISION COUNCIL

Held at the Cumbria Park Hotel, Carlisle at 10.30am on Saturday 22nd November 2008

Welcome: The meeting was opened by Allyson Ingall, President. She welcomed

Apologies for absence were received from: Sally Lister, Grahame Smith, Mike Telford, Gillian Telford, James Douglas & Jonathan Whitwell

Present: John Dalton, Alan Rutter, Chris Brooksbank, Allyson Ingall, Liz Freeman, Ann Kay, Mike Cunningham, Angie Leonard, Joy Bowmer, Jennifer Marshall, Dave Ramshaw, Ruby Gore, M McDonald, Mark Brennan & Mike Charlton

1. **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 24th June 2008:** agreed with the addition of Dave Ramshaw who was also present

2. **Matters arising from the minutes:**

Item 5: Allyson welcomed Ruby (UoC Rep) who is actively promoting the NUT especially at the Carlisle Campus.

Item 7. Allyson expressed pride in the Cumbria NUT whose work with the University of Cumbria to support CPD at Masters level which is gaining significant praise at regional and national level. The launch event was high profile at the Carlisle campus last week. This was seen a potentially influential recruiting tool with savings equal to NUT membership fees. This is being promoted in all schools as a practical benefit with elements of school based development and research.

Item 10. It was reported that we did have a delegation at Steve Sinnott's celebration event in London.

National Challenge programme has been almost universally criticised, except from the DCSF, which say that the programme is not based on achievement data. In Cumbria we have 10 out of 38 secondary schools in this programme – this is seen by some as route toward academies and trust. This is an issue we must monitor carefully.

The BSF programme has been extended to the primary sector with work focused on Barrow, and the next year's monies likely to be focused on West Cumbria.

Cumbria Secondary BSF was originally programmed for 2015, but this has been reapplied for, with two waves of £100 million and £80 million now likely. However we must note that any Academy funding is deducted from the BSF monies!

Lack of consultation, open discussion and strategic thinking on BSF is a big issue.

3. **Category 1 Reports:**

National Executive: Alan provided a the latest Executive News.

Pay Campaign ballot for action was a low turnout, with Cumbria reflecting the national picture with a small majority (in a very low vote) in favour of action. The pay campaign will continue. The current deal is 2.45% from last September with 2.3% for the next two years. The NUT has submitted evidence on the proposed rises. Their might be move by the STRB to reduce the proposed rises!

Work with other professional associations (NAHT & ATL) is slow on the campaign to remove SATs.

Divisional Secretaries briefing was very good this year (and well attended at the newly re-opened Stoke Rochford Hall).

National reorganisation includes a new Academies

Teacher Representatives:

(Scrutiny Panel): Chris reported that the changes in political leadership of the County Council. The Scrutiny procedures are seen as “toothless”, with poor information and very limited acknowledgement to local feelings. The Academies programme development was highlighted as a good example.

TACG: Alan reported. Dave Ramshaw has represented the NUT on the Teachers Safety Committee, but this is being restructured – Dave commented on attendance at two meetings of this talk shop, and noted that the previous route did in fact give good access to County. We are involved in the local WAMG (though not at National level). This seems to be fairly proactive and effective locally. Procedures reviews have been slow as officers have get pulled out leading to cancelled meetings. Redundancy / Retirement budget requires ongoing scrutiny and can be contentious as this pot is now used for non-teaching staff, and the LA don't seem to know how or who this budget is managed.

Representation and meetings and Capita's dual roles with conflict of interest is still being contested. Holiday dates were agreed but have been withheld due to a technicality – John Swainston is now to deal with this issue – watch this space.

4. **Category 2 reports:** These were formally received at 11.25

5. **Correspondence requiring decision as to action:** None

6. Conference 2009:

Attendance needs to be confirmed. We have booked into the North Region Hotel, near the St. David's Centre in Cardiff. A request was made to promote attendance from any other members. **Notification of representatives to Alan by the end of January.** Chris was asked to send a reminder to all association secretaries.

Conference 2010 is at Liverpool.

7. Cumbria Division Training 2009:

Angie reported on recent courses and events, in addition to the UoC link discussed earlier, which has included the Carlisle Campus “do” last night. Thanks were given to Mike and his band, and Ruby (our Bursary Holder) at Carlisle Campus. We will be having a Mince Pies and Quiz night on December 15th. We also have a rep at the Ambleside Campus, Anna Fletcher. Following our model the Newcastle Association has got a rep at the Newcastle Campus. Ruby has liaised with Carly Doyle (from NW region) to help promote events, and has set up an NUT Society and a Facebook site. It was agreed to arrange a liaison meeting before Christmas.

Reps training was postponed, but we now have 27th January in Carlisle (followed by “Gissa Job” presentation at UoC), 3rd February at Chequers, Dalton.

Leadership training did run at Barrow (followed by an Academies meeting for members in the Barrow area). The Leadership course will be re-run at Hunday Manor, Workington.

NQT / Early career teacher conference is planned for 6/7th March with North Region in Newcastle. Approval for Cumbrian delegates to stay over on the Saturday night was requested – Angie proposed, Dave Ramshaw seconded, carried unanimously. Members were asked for any further ideas for workshops or volunteers to help present. Allyson suggested a workshop re; Show Racism the Red Card

8. **Cumbria Matters:** These will be covered in Secretaries report.

9. **National Matters:** These covered earlier

10. **Matters arising from category 2 reports: (Timed business at 12pm)** at 11.53am.

President: Was pleased to note that the Union is active and thriving.

General Secretary Negotiating Secretary & Casework Secretary: Alan noted that the Corporate Director has delegated liaison with associations to Heads of Service, who compete with each other but have to refer to the corporate director for authorisation. Issues of achievement in many secondary schools (10 on National challenge) have led to *close supervision* by NW Office and DCSF.

Performance Improvement Board (PIB) has operated, and has been restructured.

Procedures reviews are progressing, if slow.

Academies – West Coast seems to be moving forward with some agreement at the moment, but the new principal may have a different view on Unions. With the Carlisle Academy liaison is much more difficult, and we are trying to get a formal negotiating agreement. Concerns from members in the academy are significant with serious long term absences and unusual practices being used especially at the Central site. Members are advised to maintain a Blog or diary.

The Labour group has recently taken over control of the Council, majority group, but not a majority group. The politicians do seem to be committed to meet with the Unions.

Casework is very busy, and seems likely to continue to increase.

Alan thanked all the officers for all their hard work.

Treasurer: Allyson noted our efforts to manage a reduction in our balance. Full accounts will be presented at the AGM in January. She asked people to complete details for online payment of expenses.

Health & Safety Advisor: Dave asked if Ann could attend the new “Corporate H & S Group” in place of Alan, when required. This was agreed.

EGAG: Nothing further to report

North Regional Council: Chris and Alan attended a special meeting to look at new internal finance arrangements. Liz and Alan attended last Saturday. He shared the latest Northern Teacher, produced by Mike M, which included items on Early Career Training, “Don’t work for Free” which notes the end of salary protection from 2006, and should not coordinate subjects unless in receipt of a TLR, this has been clarified in the latest Teachers Pay and Conditions Document. Dave reported that the Northern Teacher and links to Pay and Conditions documents is available on the Cumbria website – cumbrianut.org.uk.

11. Any other business:

The floor raised concerns about the SIP / SIO approach as being followed by the local authority. This is being raised at the Joint Consultative Group by our reps.

The meeting closed at 12.35pm.