



Nick Wigmore Greater Manchester National Executive Report June 16

The Executive observed a minute's silence in memory of Jo Cox MP on the day that people across the UK and the world joined in collective tribute. Former General Secretary Christine Blower represented the Union at the commemoration in London. The Executive also observed a minute's silence for the victims of the horrific tragedy in Orlando.

Ballot results and 5th July Strike Action

RESULT OF VOTING

Number of ballot papers returned:	51,530
Number of papers found to be invalid:	27
Thus, total number of valid papers to be counted:	51,503

Number voting YES	47,218	91.7%
Number voting NO	4,285	8.3%

The ballot turnout may have been lower than expected, and this is something the Union should reflect on, however the result gives us a very clear mandate to take action given the unprecedented 92% YES vote - the highest level of support the NUT has ever achieved in a ballot.

The Executive received and discussed the following recommendation in response to the results.

BALLOT RESULT

The ballot result is attached.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- That we go ahead with strike action on 5 July 2016
- That we urge Division Secretaries to work hard to get a turnout for the strike especially at Monday's DSB
- That we plan events for local media and push the funding argument in particular; and urge Divisions to contact local political figures and local GMB and Union officers
- That we survey members via "YouGov" to ask their views to determine attitudes and why members voted or did not vote
- That we respond strongly to any negative implications of the Government/STRB report. (Note this is likely to be published in the next few days)
- That we publicise school and college cuts on all media platforms and seek parental, governor, head teacher sign up for more funding demands
- That we investigate national newspaper adverts or other media platforms on funding demands
- That we continue to work to encourage other unions, in particular GMB and Unison in the light of their discussions about coming into the dispute (note that there is a meeting in HQ tomorrow), and in accordance with the Conference priority motion
- That we evaluate the day of action and other unions' positions and consider that evaluation and future plans for action at the July Executive

The Exec debated an objection in the name of Ian Grayson and Neil Foden calling for a withdrawal of the day of action; this was very largely lost. The recommendation was amended with an objection in the name of Phil Clarke and Dawn Taylor, as well as one from Jessica Edwards and Alex Kenny which spells out the need to assess the impact of the day of action, and if conditions are favourable, declare dates for further strike action in the autumn term.

At the time of writing this report plans for rallies and demonstrations across the region have yet to be confirmed, however it is likely that we will have a demonstration in Manchester, as well as in the other executive districts similar to 2014.

Divisions and Local Associations will be receiving their campaign bags at home on Saturday or at work/business addresses on Monday, depending on the expressed preference.

Members will be receiving a leaflet on strike action and a letter from the Acting General Secretary, early next week.

Schools in the ballot group will be receiving a mailing early next week containing a poster, lapel stickers and the strike action leaflet.

Head teachers and principals will be receiving a strike edition Headway around the same time.

Pay and Conditions - STRB report

With the end of referendum purdah it is likely that the DfE will release the STRB report in the very near future. There will follow a period of further consultation of at least 4 weeks meaning that schools and local authorities will not be in possession of the final draft of the STPCD until August. The Union is trying to anticipate what may be included in the report and is looking to produce joint guidance with other Teacher and Head Teacher Unions. We will continue to:

- urge all academies, schools and local authorities to maintain a 6 point and 3 point pay range
- oppose the recommendation from Nicky Morgan that teachers will be allowed to 'volunteer' to move from the Upper to the Main Pay Range
- advise division secretaries and school reps to avoid agreeing to pay policies prior to Union and joint Union advice.

The release of the STRB report, alongside the widespread opposition to new funding formula and budgetary cuts, is likely to trigger a strong response from members, parents and the wider public; this will hopefully galvanise the views of teachers as our pay and conditions become increasingly susceptible to the Government's 'slash and burn' approach to locally accountable state education and school funding. For every 20 teachers employed within a workplace, the school has to pay an extra teacher's salary back to treasury; a huge financial burden



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imposed at a time when school funding is set to fall rapidly behind inflation.

ASSA guidance

The Union will be republishing Action Short of Strike Action guidance at the start of the Autumn term. The guidance has been updated and in some areas simplified, with additional advice on escalation to strike action. While we are no longer jointly badging this guidance with the NASUWT, we are still encouraging school groups to seek joint action where possible.

Review of advisory committee

The Executive have agreed to create 'organising forums' to replace the current Advisory Committee structure. While there have been some concerns relating to the loss of advisory committees, the forums will be larger and will not be restricted to the termly or twice yearly meeting cycles – the opportunity to engage a much wider section of our membership and gather responses quickly and efficiently is going to be a huge benefit to the way we organise as a Union. Forums, working parties and ad hoc 'task and finish' groups will still meet regularly in London.

4. PROPOSAL TO CREATE ORGANISING FORUMS

Organising forums will have a remit to:-

- i) promote and develop the engagement of members in the relevant section/member groups;
- ii) share, utilise and build on effective practice;
- iii) share and spread good practice in engagement and involvement of members more widely; and to develop local networks;
- (iv) advise on policy in relation to respective groups; and*
- (v) provide feedback to relevant standing committees.*

It is proposed to transform the equality advisory committees into national Organising Forums, elected via Regional/Wales councils. They would meet twice a year and among other parts of their remit, continue to oversee the relevant equality conferences.

The organising forums would report to the Organising and Membership Committee with cross-referral of issues relevant to the other standing committees as and when necessary.

It is also proposed to establish a number of other organising forums, also elected via Regional/Wales councils, in place of other existing advisory committees and working groups.

The Executive, including an Officer of the Union (or nominee) to have three places on each Organising Forum, with the relevant Equality Seat Holder being one of the two Executive members of the Black Teachers; LGBT+ and Disabled teacher forums. Elections to the Forums would be by the full Executive body. The Forums would be chaired by one of the Executive members.

The current proposal is to consider Organising Forums for:-

1. Women teachers;
2. Black teachers;
3. LGBT+ teachers;
4. Disabled teachers;
5. Young teachers;
6. Retired teachers;
7. Leadership group members;
8. Sixth Form College members; and
9. Supply teachers.

NUT Special Conference – Saturday 5 November, Central Hall, London

Following the decision of Annual Conference to hold a Special Conference to consider proposals for the creation of a new union, the Executive has agreed that the Special Conference should be held on 5th November at Central Hall, Westminster, London. The ATL will be considering the proposals at a separate Conference on the same day. Early notice is being given to assist associations and divisions in their planning, detailed information regarding the arrangements for the Conference will be despatched at the end of July.

General Secretary Election 2016 - 2019

Ballot papers for the election of the General Secretary are being sent out today (24 June) and must be returned to the Independent Scrutineer by midday on 15 July