



16 February 2017

Teaching Assistants – Update on Joint Review of Roles and Responsibilities

As you will be aware, the council in partnership with the recognised Trade Unions is undertaking a review of Teaching Assistant roles, functions, job descriptions and activities to establish whether the current job descriptions adequately describe and value the requirements of the role.

The purpose of this briefing is to update you on the progress of the review and to keep you informed of the work that is being undertaken.

A project team has been established to lead the review. The project team consists of council officers and recognised trade union representatives and is supported by a Teaching Assistant Workstream and a Head Teacher Workstream.

The Teaching Assistant Workstream is made up of fifteen Teaching Assistants who work across a variety of school settings. This group will consider the range of duties and responsibilities across the variety of Teaching Assistant roles to ensure this is considered throughout the review.

A Head Teacher Workstream has also been established which will support the project team and ensure the views of headteachers are incorporated as the review progresses.

We are committed to progressing the review as quickly as possible, considering all of the options available including the option for a more simplified structure for Teaching Assistant roles.

The project team is also looking at examples of flexible working arrangements that are in place across our schools. This work will allow us to consider how flexibility is currently managed in schools and to consider options for managing this in the future.

Whilst the review is being undertaken, a stay on individual regradings will apply and will continue until the review of roles is complete.

Further information will be shared with you as the review develops. The project team is working hard to identify options that can be considered and as soon as we are in a position to share more information with you, we will do so. Whilst this review is being undertaken jointly between the council and recognised trade unions, please be assured that all Teaching Assistants will be individually consulted on the outcome.

If you have any questions in relation to the content of this communication, please contact schoolconsultation@durham.gov.uk.