

Durham Local Government UNISON Bulletin

28 February 2017



Schools Edition

As outlined in previous communications, UNISON continues to negotiate with the Council to seek a resolution to the teaching assistant dispute that includes a review of teaching assistant job descriptions, roles and functions.

There were a range of activities during half-term in order to remind both the Council and the public that the issue is not resolved. This culminated in a large peaceful demonstration last Friday, which was covered by various local media, including Tyne Tees News.

In media interviews, teaching assistants and UNISON have reiterated that the solid strike action taken by you in November and December last year persuaded the Council to suspend their notice to dismiss and re-engage. To date the resulting negotiations are progressing well, with the full involvement of our teaching assistant members.

"It is important that momentum is maintained in resolving this dispute. The previous weeks' activity is a public reminder that this issue will not go away without a fair review that more accurately captures the level of work carried out by our teaching assistants. Well done to all those who participated!"

UNISON will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of our members in the negotiations, and I would also like to thank our UNISON teaching assistant representatives for all their hard work so far."

Clare Williams, UNISON Northern Regional Secretary

In the national press, Jon Richards, UNISON National Secretary for Education and Children's Services, has written an article for the Times Educational Supplement (TES), which argues that the government is not investing enough in teaching assistants or giving them the recognition they deserve.

This article can be accessed [here](#).

UNISON will keep our teaching assistant members up to date with further details and events — please pass this on to your colleagues.

We are #strongertogether in #unison

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