

Durham Local Government UNISON Bulletin

29 September 2017



The past few years have been very difficult for Durham Teaching Assistants, and all of those who rely upon your work, your dedication and your support. As you will be aware, your union has been engaged in complex and lengthy negotiations with Durham Council to seek a resolution to this long-running dispute.

The council have recently made a revised and improved offer. UNISON believes this will be the final offer made by the council, and represents the best deal which can be reached through negotiation.

UNISON believes the deal on offer is a significant improvement to what has previously been proposed, and will allow a solution to be found for every Durham Teaching Assistant.

That is why, following a meeting last night, UNISON Teaching Assistant representatives are backing a YES vote in the upcoming ballot.

As previously highlighted there are some key new elements in this final offer including:

- The establishment of a TA Career Progression Board with Teaching Assistant representation, which can hold the council to account and find solutions for any Teaching Assistant who could potentially lose out after the compensation period.
- A commitment to work with schools, Teaching Assistants and UNISON to look at solutions for everyone.
- A training audit to understand training needs for each individual.
- A new implementation date of January 2018, which if this new offer is accepted means there is time immediately for the Board to start its work looking at different solutions with Teaching Assistants and schools.
- A further and continuing commitment to a flexible approach to additional hours and again there is a clear written statement and agreement on this.

We know that you will have questions about the offer, especially after such a lengthy process. School meetings are currently taking place – please make sure you attend the meeting at your school where you will have an opportunity to ask questions of UNISON negotiators.

In addition, UNISON will be organising additional meetings for those TAs who may be at risk of financial loss. The details of these are being directly sent out to those individuals today.

Thank you for your patience, strength and resolve throughout this dispute. The deal on the table today is only there thanks to the way in which we have campaigned together. Now it is time to vote YES in the upcoming ballot, and deliver the best possible result for all TAs.

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Monday to Friday

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