

## **Branch Committee Report – WCL Children’s 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015**

**WCL – Budget** we have raised within CJC and DJC the timeline for budget details. We have been informed that details will hopefully be shared with us at the beginning of November.

**Education Division** – consultation closed. Feedback from collated concerns was shared with members and no further concerns were raised.

New posts have been through moderation and have grades attached now.

### **Children’s Social Care**

#### **Naming of Social Workers within Family Court Judgements –**

Paul and I met with Karen Simmons (Assistant Director Children’s Social Care) to discuss a protocol regarding the guidance issued by Sir James Munby. Since this guidance was introduced a number of Unison’s social work members nationally have been named in what is selective coverage of cases, causing enormous stress and exposing them and their families to public hostility.

They are unable to defend themselves because of confidentiality obligations placed upon them, while senior managers are often not named.

Karen has agreed to discuss a protocol with legal and will update us as soon as possible.

### **Staff Forums**

Karen Simmons informed us that she intends to put staff forums in place on a rota system so that as many staff can take part as possible. We welcome the opportunity for staff to take part and discuss any issues etc. or good practice at this level. We have asked that Unison are able to attend if not all then some of these forums, a similar forum takes place within Adults for Care at Home staff which Unison attends.

### **Family Insights**

Mick McCracken (Assistant Director Family Insights) gave an update at last week’s DJC. I have also requested a meeting to give further detail.

The update was around 4 areas -

Social Workers as agents for change

- Completed version 1 and 2 of Care First rationalisation
- Completed Mobile Working pilot

- Systemic practice training is underway
- Scoping future versions of Care First & roll out of Mobile Working

Social work units- segmented by need

- Launched units 1 and 2 ( physical abuse & children problematic behaviour)
- Recruiting to Units 3 and 4 – launch planned for late Nov.
- Developed a shared transformation narrative between early help and CSC.
- Considering scope & make up of additional units e.g. 5+  
Strengthened analytics
- Developed and embedded segmentation model-includes unit training
- Designed and launched Unit social work dashboards
- Scope a shared data warehouse across CSC AND Newcastle Families Programme
- Roll out dashboards across CSC

Teaching and learning organisation

- Designed the 'Newcastle Curriculum'- social work and analyst
- Adopted group supervision to strengthen collaboration and learning
- Actively participating in step up, Frontline and Firstline
- Continue conversations with HEI's regarding teaching partnerships.

### **Children's Residential Care**

Staff are being consulted at one of the Residential Care Homes – Bedeburn regarding proposals to bring in further posts at N4.

The original brief was for one post to assist with personal care in the early morning this has now been increased to look at a further 2 /3 posts at N4.

Concerns regarding this have been forwarded to Management for their responses.

**Next Shop Stewards Meeting Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

**Lynda Hardie, Deputy Branch Secretary**