

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY BRANCH OF UNISON

Academies – Motion

"Northumberland County Branch of UNISON Committee sees the proposals by the new government on Academies (and the Secretary of State's recent letter to all Governing Bodies) as threatening the interests of all its Members in Schools and in Central Services providing Service Level Agreements to schools - and as an attack on local, democratic accountability.

This is because Academies will be able to be created without the agreement of or any reference to the Local Authority; without the need for a ballot of either parents or the wider community; will draw in the funds from services previously provided by the Local Authority and - fundamentally - will not have to abide by the outcomes of the School Support Staff Negotiating Body, which UNISON believes is the best chance for significant improvement in the pay, terms and conditions for its School Support Staff Members.

In response to this, we will, as a Branch:

- Write to the Head Teachers, and Chair/Members of all Governing Bodies in Northumberland explaining our concerns, asking them to reject the Academy option and offering a meeting.
- Write to all our Schools Workplace Contacts and Stewards asking them to co-ordinate Staff representations to their Governing Bodies, through their Support Staff/Staff Representative and/or direct letters to the Chairs of Governing Bodies, drawing attention to UNISON's concerns and expressing their own.
- Write to all UNISON Members with a request that any who sit on Governing Bodies in any capacity draw the GB's attention to UNISON's concerns.
- Liaise with the teaching unions with a view to a joint campaign on this issue."

PROPOSED:

Joyce M. Guller

SECONDED:

Jan Fleming - 6/7/2010