

Renfrewshire Joint Negotiating Committee for Teachers

To: Renfrewshire Joint Negotiating for Teachers

On: 11th June, 2024

Renfrewshire Educational Psychology Service (REPS)

Report by

Joint Secretary (Teachers' Side)

Background

The importance and the role of Educational Psychologists in supporting the education improvement agenda cannot be overstated. The Educational Psychology team has an expansive remit: post-Covid recovery, embedding attainment challenge initiatives, the increase in the uptake of referrals as part of the 1140 hours early years extension, the increase in ASN amongst the school population, supporting the revised Violence and Aggression policy, Non-Violent Resistance training, work with LAC priorities and leading on The Promise etc

There are serious doubts being expressed amongst the Renfrewshire psychologists' team regarding their ability to deliver the above initiatives due to the proposed termination of temporary contracts announced recently and around the staffing complement within the service.

All classroom teachers have already been impacted by a reduction in support from REPS where their workload has fallen to schools and school management teams; the recent cascading of Dyslexia Assessments is only one example of a responsibility being shifted onto classroom teachers to assess and administer, with a clear deficit in training for teachers to cope with this additional responsibility and an added workload.

Any reduction in the service at this time will have a consequential impact on teachers and crucially on the level of support being provided to pupils and young people at a time when all evidence indicates that the need for Psychological Services has increased, not decreased.

Action

The Teachers' Side, in conjunction with a representative from Educational Psychologist team, is requesting an urgent meeting with the Management Side to discuss the concerns being expressed by the Educational Psychologist Service relating to staffing complements and the ongoing delivery of priorities as well as statutory redundancies of two temporary psychologists.