

# SANDWELL CHILDREN'S SERVICES UPDATE

Dear Members

The Joint trade unions (GMB, Unison and Unite the Union) have today met to discuss the campaign going forward against the proposed Children's Trust for Sandwell Authority and the subsequent Commissioners decision that the employment of staff within the Trust will be TUPE'd across to the new employer.

The Joint Trade Unions and the council have argued with the commissioner that the staff should be placed in the Trust on a secondment model not transferred so that the staff will remain protected from future developments within the Trust. Unfortunately the commissioner does not agree with our perspective and has refused to listen and insisted that all staff that are classed as in scope for the Trust will be transferred under TUPE.

Whilst the pledges announced by the Council are welcomed, they are just pledges that are clearly a response to the strong votes for a formal strike ballot you gave us in the consultative ballots.

The Joint Trade Unions have agreed today that we will be seeking full legal opinions on what the commissioner has stated and what our options are for pursuing a formal dispute.

The council have said that they will know fully in January as to who is included and so the unions have agreed to meet again in January once we have all the full facts of the proposals and what the legal opinion states.

We will endeavour to keep you all as fully informed as possible as soon as any information becomes available.

## YOUR UNION CONTACTS



0121 569 5990

[www.gmb85sandwell.org.uk](http://www.gmb85sandwell.org.uk)



0121 569 5996

[www.sandwellunison.co.uk](http://www.sandwellunison.co.uk)



0121 569 6143

[www.unitewm7015.co.uk](http://www.unitewm7015.co.uk)