

PERMANENT SECRETARY

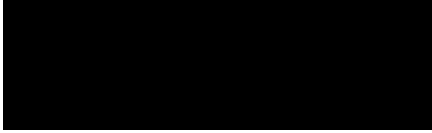


FROM: Paul Sweeney
16 January 2015

EDUCATION AUTHORITY – PROGRESS UPDATE

1. The Minister, John O'Dowd MLA, wrote to you on 20 November 2014 confirming that, following close scrutiny and debate, the Education Bill had completed its passage in the Assembly. Following Royal Assent the Education Act became law on 12 December, when the Education Authority came into being as a body corporate. It is intended that the Education and Library Boards and Staff Commission will be dissolved and their staff and functions transferred to the Education Authority on 1 April 2015.
2. I can confirm that Mr Gavin Boyd has taken up the post of Interim Chief Executive of the Education Authority and has begun to progress the work required to embed new structures and processes and oversee a smooth transition from five ELBs to the new Authority.
3. Work has commenced on drawing up structures for the new Education Authority with project management arrangements being established which include an overarching Programme Management Board (PMB) chaired by Fiona Hepper (SRO), as well as a DE Delivery Board and an EA Transition Board to oversee the delivery of project work. Both the Department and the Authority are committed to engaging with TUS throughout the delivery of the programme.
4. The former ESA Implementation Team is now designated as the Education Authority Implementation Team (EAIT). Colleagues from EAIT will shortly be re-engaging with staff across the ELBs to deliver the change programme. Where possible, the aim is to build on the work that many staff across the education sector previously contributed to as we prepared for ESA.
5. As the changes to local government are effective from 1 April 2015, there is a pressing need to ensure that structures of education administration are compatible with the new council arrangements from this date. A significant programme of work remains to be completed to make the Education Authority operational. I therefore ask for your continuing support and commitment during this challenging transition as we work together to bring stability and certainty back to our education structures.

6. My officials and I will ensure you are kept informed through the change process. Thank you.



PAUL SWEENEY

