

SUPPLY REPORT AND UPDATE ON STATUS

It would appear that the employment situation regarding supply work is dire for many colleagues, in particular with regard to those (now the vast majority of supply teachers) working for the “rip-off agencies”. The situation has been made worse by cuts to funding and the use of non-qualified people undertaking the work of professionals.

Jon Hegerty, who was the appointed staff member for supply has moved on in the new organisation, and his role has been allocated to Martin Kenny, who has been very co-operative and is keen to support supply teachers. I met with him as liaison person for the Network, along with Network Secretary Peter lock and Assistant Louise Whittles at HQ at the end of January to discuss future plans, support and arrangements for retaining what we have archived as well as improving as best we can the status and employment conditions of supply teachers. * The pint is constantly made that all teachers could find themselves seeking work in this capacity at some point in their career, so the work of Network and support for Conference motions should be of interest to all.

The National Organising Forum for supply workers has now finished, along with all of the NOFs, but is set to be replaced shortly by National Union Organising Forums. Regional Office will be sending information to Districts for nominations for these. As in the previous set-up here will be 2 people from each Region to be nominated, and four from London.

The following points are mainly gathered, along with proposals, from supply members and the meeting of the Supply Teachers Network in Birmingham on Saturday, 2nd December 2019.

1. Martin Kenny is National Organizer on NEU staff and “organizes the organizers”.
2. The Supply Teachers Conference has been relocated to a venue on a date to be decided, following the decision from HQ to cancel all bookings at Warwick Uni Campus Conference Centre on the back of the controversial treatment of an inflammatory case of abuse by a group of students. * Peter Block managed to arrange for the Supply Conference to be a residential at Warwick instead of the HH date put by the organizing committee. In the meantime, as I write, we are awaiting confirmation of the fresh venue.

3. NATIONAL CONFERENCE and SUPPLY

With everything taking on a different format this year it was very important to retain, if possible, the events we have worked hard to establish for supply colleagues. The upshot, with much appreciated input from Martin, is that instead of a supply fringe, along with other “sectors” (not to be confused with “sections” in the union there will be a Supply Break-out meeting. This will be on Tuesday 16th April 14.00 – 15.30. A Supply Reception will be held on the Sunday 14TH April 18-30-19.30 – BUT this year food and drink will be provided so we don’t have to ask for funding. Not ascertained as yet is if both of these events are open to non-delegates at Conference as they have been in the past.

Finally I would like to highlight the great work that Jane Canelle does “at the coal face” as a supply teacher and our Supply Officer.

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