

## **EMPLOYEES FORUM (EDUCATION STAFF UNIONS)**

### **2 SUPPORT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOLS ADMITTING INTERNATIONAL NEW ARRIVALS**

The Employees' Side submitted a written report advising that Calderdale continued to see an influx of international new arrivals. With this increase individual schools were facing significant problems in making appropriate provision.

From 1988 to 1999 there was a centrally funded Language Support Service for which staff were deployed to schools according to need. In 1999 the majority of funding was devolved to schools according to a formula which had subsequently been reviewed. However, in the past few years there had been a growth in the number of international new arrivals. Currently there were a number of refugees and asylum seekers entering Calderdale, plus an increasingly significant number of children and young people whose families had moved for personal or economic reasons. The main groups migrating for economic reasons had been those from the recent entrants to the European Union. This latter group of migrant families were increasing in number and also applying for places in an increasing number of schools. This could be a significant issue for primary schools, particularly where the children were likely to have English as an additional language. Currently the local authority was unable to provide significant support to those schools affected by the recent immigration as the vast majority of support was provided through devolved funding. This issue warranted further consideration due to the effect it had on individual pupils/young people and an increasing number of schools.

#### **IT WAS AGREED that**

(a) it be recommended that the Schools Forum consider whether it is appropriate/possible to reconsider the basis on which funding is devolved to schools; and

(b) it be recommended to the Schools Forum that steps be taken to actively seek additional funding from central Government.