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Joint general secretaries Mary Bousted, Kevin Courtney

Via email: to all Public Health Directors

14 October 2020

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to you as Joint General Secretaries of the National Education Union (NEU) on the issue of local arrangements for consultation with our Union.

The NEU is committed to doing all we can to ensure schools and colleges are as safe as possible for our members, their pupils and the wider public. We believe that this can be best achieved with collaborative working between local authorities, MATS, schools, colleges and unions.

In order that this collaboration can be achieved, the NEU wants its local officials in every area to be able to meet regularly with public health officials and relevant local authority officials to discuss the local position, local data on Covid-19 and the arrangements for managing cases and potential outbreaks, both in individual schools and colleges, as well as across schools and colleges more widely.

Our local feedback suggests that this collaboration is helping in public health messaging and at giving useful information to key decision-makers and in a number of other ways. We are writing to ask you to offer your support to the principles of collaboration which underlie this proposal.

We have asked our local Branch Secretaries in every area to contact their local Directors of Public Health and we hope that you will agree to meet with them (ideally by including them on an ongoing basis in the local authority's 'Gold Command' or similar meetings, as already happens in various local authority areas) and share relevant public health information, in particular regular updates of local infection rates, in order to inform discussions about plans to address the ongoing challenge of Covid-19.

If you have already received such an approach and have agreed to this collaboration, then please accept our thanks.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary W. Bousted".

Mary Bousted
Joint General Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Courtney".

Kevin Courtney
Joint General Secretary