

# Janitors and Facilities Management

**A**fter a lot of effort and pressure from UNISON and staff, agreement has finally been reached on a new timescale for the review.

There will now be a period of engagement with each establishment involving School Head Teachers, Community Centre management and Communities and Families senior management. These discussions are taking place now and will continue through August and in to September.

This will provide a better understanding on what Schools, Community Centres, Nurseries, Children's Centres and Libraries need from their Janitors and Facilities Assistants. As ever though the perilous state of local government finances will play a part.

We have argued from the start that the initial proposals would have to change, and the model that is presented to you in September/October will allow a further short period of final consultation on your hours, working patterns and working time payments.

We have agreed that the interviews for the Facilities Supervisor roles should go ahead as planned, this will allow vacancies to be created across a range of buildings and make the matching and assignment process much easier. Hopefully by October there will be a list of full time vacancies for any staff who are still facing a cut in hours.

We also propose to write to Communities & Families to express the staff and UNISON'S concern that this

review will finally disconnect the Janitors from the Schools and Community Centres they serve. Staff form a bond with each other and the children and young people they serve, ensuring the successful running of schools and centres. This bond may well be broken through this review as the new Facilities Technicians will have to refuse to carry out certain tasks that are no longer listed in the service level agreement or issue the school or centre with an invoice for payment. It is sadly a step towards the fully automated Facilities Technician of the future.

**Gerry Stovin, UNISON  
Service Conditions Officer**

**George White, UNISON  
Shop Steward**

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