



**1 September 2023**

JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED ON BEHALF OF NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL, UNISON, UNITE AND GMB

**Industrial Action Suspended – Early Years**

As part of recent discussions between North Lanarkshire Council and the Joint Trade Unions, we have agreed to work on a renewed effort with respect to the early years' workforce.

We are committed to enabling a mutually agreed outcome which will continue to support and engage our employees within the service.

Emerging from the ongoing discussions to avoid industrial action and with continued commitment to working collaboratively, full consideration will be given to new proposals which will enable a number of Early Learning Practitioners who would prefer to stay within the early years' service, to be redeployed to a suitable alternative post, within the agreed 1140 operating model aligned to the Scottish Government's funding proposal for early years delivery.

Individual meetings with Early Years Practitioners will continue to be held and all supports will be provided to ensure individual requirements can be considered within the proposed options.

Both the Council and the Trade Unions remain committed to joint working and ongoing dialogue. The industrial action scheduled for later this month in early years establishments has been suspended to allow constructive talks to continue.