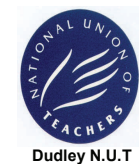


**Statement by concerned parties to
Dudley Council regarding financial
cuts to the Ethnic Minority
Achievement Service.**

NASUWT
Dudley Association



We note with concern the decision of the Council to reduce further the budget of EMAS.

This decision raises a number of issues which we feel need to be brought to public attention.

First, EMAS has the greatest concentration of black and minority ethnic professionals in Dudley's education service. Any cuts in this service will, therefore, affect this key workforce. Loss of expertise from EMAS will result in a serious reduction to the level of support available to schools across the Borough, especially where ethnic minority pupils form only a small part of the school population. Headteachers will need to replace these services at school level, often at greater expense and in circumstances where grant aid does not cover fully the costs of professionals required. Without EMAS, there will be no central pool of expertise to call upon.

Secondly, EMAS provides services for a wide range of minority pupils, including those from new communities originating in Eastern Europe and sub-Saharan Africa. It is our view that these services are more likely to be needed in the future to help individual schools and families. It is also likely that these new migrant groups will impact on the intakes of schools which have not seen large numbers of minority ethnic pupils in the past. If budget cuts make the maintenance of EMAS impractical, the Borough will lose expertise at the very moment when it is most

needed and this will affect those schools who have the least experience of dealing with migrant populations.

Thirdly, Dudley MBC has a rising level of performance amongst its minority ethnic pupils. EMAS has "played" a critical role in this improvement and it seems perverse to cut an area of success at a time when raising attainment and aspirations are national targets. Proposed cuts will not only affect those children who receive direct support but also those they study with.

Finally, we believe that the EMAS has been unfairly targeted for the second time. We are also deeply concerned at the manner in which the decision has been taken. Communities have not been consulted and staff seem sidelined in any discussion about the service and the nature of the cuts. This hardly reinforces any confidence in the robust commitment to community cohesion or local democracy in Dudley Borough. This is made all the more tasteless when the services is treated as 'jam' rather than an essential ingredient in the successful educational achievements of many of our young people.

The decision to slash the EMAS budget endangers the essence of the service and reeks of hypocrisy when officers of the Borough are happy to glory in its successes. We urge you to reconsider the level of proposed cuts and establish an EMAS fit for the challenges of the next decade.