

**AT A MEETING of the
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
held in the Ashburton Hall, Elizabeth II Court, Winchester
on 15 November 2016**

PRESENT

Chairman

p Councillor Roz Chadd (Hampshire County Council)

Vice-Chairman

p Councillor Charles Choudhary (Hampshire County Council)

a Councillor Mrs Fiona Mather	-	Hampshire County Council
p Councillor David Simpson	-	Hampshire County Council
p Councillor Anna McNair Scott	-	Hampshire County Council (substitute)
Mr Mohammed Ansar	-	Muslim
p Miss Margaret Boyne	-	United Reformed Church
Mr Harmeet Singh Brar	-	Sikh
p Ms Amanda Cawood	-	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
p Rev Seishin Darren Clark	-	Buddhist
a Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoo	-	Muslim
p Mr Colin How	-	Methodist
p Mr Chris Hughes	-	Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches
p Mrs Elizabeth Jenkerson	-	Baha'i
a Mrs Jo May	-	Baptist Union
a Mr Richard Moss	-	Buddhist
p Ms Sushma Sahajpal	-	Hindu
p Mr Danny Sullivan	-	Roman Catholic
p Mrs Lisa-Marie Taylor	-	Buddhist (deputy)
p Mrs Heather Thorpe-Tracey	-	Society of Friends
a Mr. Michael Zeffertt	-	Jewish
p Mrs Sue Bowen	-	Church of England
p Ms Caroline Welch	-	Church of England
a Mr Richard Wharton	-	Church of England
p Rev Jeff Williams	-	Church of England
p Rev Howard Wright	-	Church of England
p Mrs Maureen Barnes	-	Teachers' Association
p Mr Paul Bristow	-	Teachers' Association
p Mr James Dye	-	Teachers' Association
a Mrs Patrizia Timms Blanch	-	Teachers' association
Mrs Su Banwell	-	Secondary School – Co-opted
a Mrs Pam Brown	-	Special School – Co-opted
p Mrs Gill Heron	-	Academy – Co-opted

p Miss Chris Robinson	-	Humanist – Co-opted
a Mrs Rhiannon Love	-	Higher Education Rep – Co-opted
Dr Alasdair Richardson	-	Higher Education Rep – Co-opted
p Ms Karen Stubbings	-	Primary School - Co-opted
Miss Antigone Storey	-	Private School – Co-opted
p Dr Patricia Hannam	-	Support Officer
p Mrs Justine Ball	-	Support Officer

Also present was Ms Jane Whittington from the Guildford Diocese.

Owing to personal circumstances and the potential need to leave the meeting at short notice, Councillor Chadd proposed, and members agreed, that the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Choudhary should chair the meeting on this occasion.

<Councillor Choudhary in the Chair>

150. BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Vice-Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

151. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Rhiannon Love, Michael Zeffertt, Alasdair Richardson, Pam Brown, Patrizia Timms Blanch, Richard Moss, Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datto, Cllr Fiona Mather, Richard Wharton, Jo May.

152. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

Elizabeth Jenkerson asked that it be noted that she was a Westhill Award judge.

153. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2016 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

154. MATTERS ARISING

- Item 137 – Matters arising - Justine Ball, the Primary Inspector/Advisor for RE, asked for volunteers to join a group to put together guidance on religious sensitivities for Hampshire schools. She indicated that she had received a similar and very comprehensive document relating to the military. It was intended that the group would meet twice and then report back to SACRE.
- Item 140 – Membership – Patricia Hannam reported that the training session had been well attended and well-received.
- Item 148 – Any Other Business (page 8) – Patricia Hannam had consulted with the Director of Children’s Services regarding what SACRE might do in schools with regard to encouraging the reporting of hate crime. This will be an on-going discussion but Members were informed that some funding could be found through HIAS to support the material that would be produced on religious sensitivities for schools.

155. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Vice-Chairman welcomed Sue Bowen, Amanda Cawood and Danny Sullivan to their first meeting and Jane Whittington from the Guildford Diocese.

Two conferences were brought to Members’ attention, the South-West SACRE conference at Dillington House in Somerset on 6 March and the NASACRE AGM on 16 May in Birmingham. Expressions of interest in attending were sought.

The Chairman was congratulated on the birth of her daughter and presented with a card and flowers on behalf of SACRE.

156. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

157. SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

SACRE received a presentation from Jonathan Davies, the Strategic Service Manager for Safeguarding, on safeguarding and the Hampshire Safeguarding Children’s Board.

Jonathan Davies began by explaining that the Hampshire Safeguarding Children’s Board is a strategic alliance between a number of agencies specifically named within law to work together to keep children safe, including councils, police, and health groups. It was indicated that two key principles guide the work of the Board members - that safeguarding is everybody’s responsibility and that the approach is child centred. The national review of the Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards had

rated Hampshire as 'good' overall with outstanding leadership. He noted that media coverage and findings from Serious Case Reviews often gave a poor perception of the effectiveness of safeguarding agencies. For effectiveness, he suggested that four things were needed - a clear focus on the 'voice of the child', committed leaders, a culture of continuous improvement and two-way communication both within the Board's members and with outside agencies.

One of the current priorities of the Board was to improve the way the Board communicates with and engages with the key stakeholders, including children, their parents, and the community and faith communities. It was put to SACRE members to consider whether they had a role to play.

Members of SACRE were given the opportunity to ask questions

Members queried why the Board had not involved the safeguarding boards run by the faith communities and urged the Board to make links with the faith communities. Some Members felt that SACRE was not the correct forum for safeguarding issues as its purpose was the advancement of good religious education. It was commented that the agreed syllabus provided the opportunity to discuss the value of human life and this, together with the current SACRE work on religious sensitivities' guidance for schools could both be seen as aspects of safeguarding.

It was agreed to convene a group of interested members to discuss safeguarding issues with a member of the Safeguarding Board and bring back any suggestions to a future SACRE meeting.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Jonathan Davies for his presentation.

158. MEMBERSHIP

The Council were informed of the appointments of Sue Bowen who was replacing Joyce Johnson as a Church of England representative, Amanda Cawood who was replacing Lisa Gilmour as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' representative and Danny Sullivan representing the Roman Catholic Church.

Patricia Hannam indicated that she would be in contact with the new members to link them with a more experienced member.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE welcomed Amanda Cawood and Danny Sullivan as members of Group A on SACRE and Sue Bowen as a member of Group B.
- That the officer supporting SACRE would link these new members with experienced SACRE members to induct and act as a mentor for the first year of service on SACRE.

159. MONITORING GROUP

The Council received the report of the Monitoring Group on its discussions at their meeting on 10 October 2016. (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

Justine Ball, the Primary Inspector/Adviser for RE drew Members' attention in particular to paragraph 3.2 of the report. Ofsted reports for Hampshire primary schools had been scrutinised and it had been found that SMSC and British Values, and hence RE, were being mentioned more frequently, usually in a positive way.

Members were informed that research would be undertaken on how schools were engaging with parents about RE in order to promote best practice.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.
- That SACRE endorsed the recommendation to consider the work schools are doing to engage parents with RE at the next monitoring group meeting.

160. SACRE ANNUAL REPORT

The Council received the Annual Report of SACRE from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser which reviewed SACRE's activities towards the development of RE in Hampshire during the last academic year, 2015-16 (Item 10 in the Minute Book).

It was noted that the report was in a new more concise format and Members were invited to ask questions and make comments.

With regard to GCSE results Members asked what could SACRE do in relation to poor results. In reply it was noted that there is some capacity in the monitoring visits to pick up on this and it was agreed that the Monitoring Group should look to challenge under-performance. GCSE data for 2015-16 was only just available and would be presented to the Monitoring Group and then to SACRE in the New Year.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE approved the report and its distribution as specified in 3.1 of the report.

161. THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL (REC) COMMISSION ON RE

The Council received a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser regarding the REC's Commission on RE and the draft of a recommended response from Hampshire SACRE to the Commission (Item 11 in the Minute Book).

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had felt it was important that Hampshire SACRE made a preliminary submission to the Commission based on the strength of RE within the county.

Members discussed the content of the draft letter. Members were pleased with the inclusion of details of the South Central Hub and that Hampshire was in a position to be leaders and supporters of areas without the same level of resources.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report
- That SACRE endorsed the submission to be made to The Commission on RE by the Chair of SACRE on behalf of Hampshire SACRE, subject to the suggested amendments.

162. YOUTH VOICE

The Council received a verbal report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser on the activities of the Youth Voice since the last SACRE meeting on 28 June 2016 (Item 12 in the Minute Book).

It was noted that the Youth Voice conference in July had been very successful, with 60 students attending. Thanks were given to all SACRE members who had given their time to host a workshop. A third conference was planned for July 2017.

Patricia Hannam was delighted to inform Members that two of the students from Cove School, who attended SACRE at the June meeting, had taken on the roles of chairman and secretary of Youth Voice at their meeting on 27 September.

Thanks were given to all the teachers who give up their time to bring the students to these meetings.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report

163. NASACRE MATTERS

The Council received a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser regarding NASACRE's review of its constitution (Item 13 in the Minute Book).

NASACRE executive had requested that all SACREs should consider the proposed new NASACRE constitution. It was explained by Sushma Sahajpal, who is a member of the executive, that they are seeking to ensure a high degree of skill on the executive to be able to steer a firm path through the current challenging times for religious education.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE approved the new NASACRE constitution.

164. SOUTH CENTRAL SACRE HUB

The Council received a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser on the activities of the Hub, especially the Reading and Research Group (Item 14 in the Minute Book).

Patricia Hannam drew Members' attention particularly to the appendix which listed the programme for 2016-17 and stressed these were meetings open to all which were attended a wide range of people. SACRE members were encouraged to attend.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

165. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE WIDER CURRICULUM

The Council received a verbal report from Justine Ball, the County Inspector/Adviser, about the work being undertaken in relation to religious education and the wider school curriculum, including SMSC (item 15 in the Minute Book).

Justine Ball presented figures from her recent survey of teachers who had attended training – this had involved 19 Secondary and 50 primary schools. 74% of both groups had indicated that they understood the purpose of RE and the syllabus. Delivery of RE lessons was done by class teachers in 74% of primary schools and in secondary schools 50% were taught by a specialist or class teacher. 50% of attendees felt that RE had a strong school presence. Over 78% of the teachers who attended felt they were well-trained and the RE syllabus was good.

The focus of work in the next half term would be on how to raise the profile of RE with other teachers and parents and to look at what parents are being told. Another area of work would look at ways of informing parents about the links between RE and SMSC. Members were informed that one school had received a Farmington Award to research the links between RE and British Values.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

166. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Vice-Chairman informed everyone that the Hampshire Interfaith Network calendar would be launched on Wednesday 16 November in the Ashburton Hall and advised that they would be available to purchase.

The Southampton Interfaith Week was promoted to members which would include a number of interesting events, including an interfaith walk to various religious establishments.

167. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 7 March 2017 in the Ashburton Hall, Hampshire County Council, Winchester.