

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

HELD ON TUESDAY, 26th MARCH, 2019 AT 4.30 PM

VENUE: BUNNY HILL CENTRE

Present: -

Local Councillors

Councillor Farthing

Councillor Marshall

Christian and Other Denominations

Matt Moore

Andrew Barron

Church of England

Stuart Bain

Caroline Weir

Teachers Association

Cathryn Forbes, Specialist Officer

In Attendance

Richard Cullen, Lead Support and Intervention Officer

Paul Wood, Principal Governance Services Officer

SAC124 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Mullen and Williams, Miss Lisa Quinn-Briton, Ms Fiona Bridle and Miss Emma Jarvis

SAC125 Terms of Office of Current Membership

Paul Wood advised that the terms of office for Mrs Lundgren, Ms Bousfield and Ms Bridle were due to end in June and requested consideration for the terms to be renewed for another 4 year period.

As the Members were not present for the meeting it was AGREED for the Memberships to be extended subject to letters being sent to the relevant Members for their agreement.

SAC126 Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 20th November, 2018

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2019 were a true record subject to the following amendment:-

Page 3 Paragraph 6 – should read “on roll” rather than “enrol”.

SAC127 Matters Arising

With regards to Membership, Mr Bain advised that he was still pursuing a possible volunteer to represent the muslim faith and he would supply Mr Wood with the details once confirmed.

SAC128 Updates from NASACRE

Cathryn Forbes advised the group of the latest update from NASACRE which was on the website if Members wished to read it. The update included a summary of the conversations had with a regard to the future of R.E in England and Wales. The Structures and Challenges of Religious Education including the inadequate recruitment of specialist teachers.

Mrs Forbes advised of the Secretary of State, Damien Hinds response to the Commission on RE report: Religion and World Views; the way forward and that whilst there was to be an introduction of subject knowledge booster courses for secondary PGCE applicants and the availability of a £9000 bursary for all Secondary RE PGCE students with a 2:2 or above, the government was not minded to pursue any of the other recommendations within the report.

Mr Cullen advised that he would liaise with Sunderland University with regards to the supposed provision that they were due to offer.

With regards to the update on Inter Faith Week 2018, it was agreed that the November meeting of SACRE be brought forward to a date in October in order to consider and participate in the 2019 Inter Faith Week.

Miss Weir suggested a Faith Trail which had been created in other areas. It was agreed that this be added as an agenda item at the next meeting for further consideration.

Mrs Forbes advised of the NASACRE 2019 Conference and AGM to be held on 22nd May and requested that any Members that wished to attend get in touch or alternatively she would attend on their behalf.

SAC129 Draft Annual Report

Mrs Forbes circulated a copy of the Draft Annual Report for the Councils consideration

In response to the Chairman's query, Mr Cullen advised that he would check to see if there was a page on the Council's website for school forums which could direct people to contact lists etc.

Mr Bain volunteered to compile a contact list within churches and other faiths in order to produce a directory.

Mrs Forbes referred to para 5 of the report with regards to an agreed syllabus review and that this must begin in 2019. There was the potential for Durham to sell theirs but ours certainly needed updating. Mrs Forbes advised that she would speak with relevant colleagues for a better understanding before the next meeting scheduled in June.

The Chairman suggested that Sunderland University be involved in this also as they were providing teaching in the subject.

The Chairman also commented on the need to carry out specific work relating to right wing, social media Islamophobia issues and the need to look at the prevent agenda to link up with what we can do.

SCA130 Dates and Times of the Next Meetings

The next meeting of SACRE would take place on Tuesday 25th June, 2019

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) Councillor L. Farthing,
Chairman