

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

HELD ON MONDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER 2016 AT 4.30 PM

VENUE: SANDHILL CENTRE

Present: -

Local Councillors

Councillor Farthing – Chair

Councillor Leadbitter

Christian and Other Denominations

Rev. G. Phillips

Co-opted

Ms F Bridle

In Attendance

Annette Parr, Lead Support and Intervention Officer

Cathryn Forbes, Specialist Officer

Paul Wood, Governance Services Officer

As the meeting was inquorate, the following discussions could not be viewed as having been approved and therefore, could not be acted upon until approved at a future quorate meeting.

SAC58 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Marshall and Williams.

SAC59 Election of a Chairman

Councillor Farthing was appointed Chairman for the meeting.

SAC60 Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 26th April 2016

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2016 were a true record

SAC61 Matters Arising

Mr Singh had declared his interest in joining the Membership. Mr Wood supplied the contact details to Annette Parr.

SAC62 Update on NASACRE

Cathryn Forbes advised on the National Conference in May and the raft of activity that preceded it. NASACRE were looking to celebrate successful SACRE's and they now had a twitter account with the handle @NASACRE.

Mrs Forbes informed of changes in relation to the Government White Paper published which included new constitution proposals. The proposals were to be voted on if SACRE was in agreement or would be signed up automatically if they had not voted on them by February, 2017. As the meeting was inquorate it was agreed that the option to be automatically enrolled after February would be necessary.

Mrs Forbes commented that there was an independent Council review on religious education and the roles of SACRE's consultation document to consider at the next meeting.

Councillor Farthing advised that she had attended an event at Oxford University which was to encourage students from the region to apply for Humanities courses which included Theology and suggested that this might stimulate interest in Religious Education.

Ms Parr advised that she would be checking to see if our membership needed to be renewed with NASACRE.

Members AGREED:

- To note the update on NASACRE and agreed that they would be automatically enrolled onto the constitution proposals from the Government White Paper.

SAC63 Proposals for CPD – Primary and Secondary

Ms Parr informed SACRE of a Primary School conference to consider Islam and the delivery of "what is Islam". They were looking to hold two sessions in spring at the Religious Studies Centre and Mrs Forbes would be following up on exact dates.

Councillor Farthing advised of a contact within the community interest company that was selling Islamic learning materials to schools who may be able to contribute to the conference.

Ms Parr commented that a Religious Education Advisor in Durham had developed new materials around Christmas and was providing these to schools at a cost of £25 and an email would be sent out on this.

Mrs Forbes advised that the Islam syllabus was based on Durham's and she was looking at work that could enhance our syllabus as more of the Academies were not providing GCSE Religious Education

Members AGREED:

- to note the proposals

SAC64 Local Authority links to inter-faith forums

Mrs Forbes advised that she was aware of local authority links to inter faith forums and queried if there was any way to get access to these so we could invite them to future meetings and look at developing and extending the influence of SACRE. Mrs Forbes also requested suggestions for links to charities similar to the inter faith links within Barnardo's for example.

Reverend Phillips advised that he was due to attend an inter faith event and he would mention the request. Mrs Forbes advised that she would email the details of SACRE to Reverend Phillips for him to circulate at the event.

Councillor Farthing commented on the need to get the University population involved also.

Members AGREED:

- to note the discussion

SAC65 Right of withdrawal from Religious Education and Collective Worship Guidance

Mrs Forbes informed of the requirement for a governor to be responsible for Religious Education. Councillor Farthing advised that this needed to be raised with Colin Byers and the school governing clerking service.

Mrs Forbes also advised on the parents' right to withdraw their child from a particular part of the school's curriculum but that they also need to understand that the school did not have the requirement to provide extra resource for when they weren't in class. Mrs Forbes informed of a guidance paper which could be used for consideration when addressing such issues.

Councillor Farthing suggested that it was worth putting the guidance paper in the governors' handbook and to highlight that a governor needs to be responsible for this.

Ms Parr advised that this could be implemented in the spring term handbook with possibly an email distributed to all schools to capture those that did not purchase our service.

Councillor Farthing commented that this was something to revisit at future meetings.

Members agreed to note the discussion.

SAC66 Update on the implications for Religious Education of the Government White Paper

Mrs Forbes raised the issue of more schools becoming Academies and the need for clarity over what was going to be happening to SACRE's, would there be a regional SACRE and what would their role be. Mrs Forbes advised that a consultation document would be circulated before the next meeting.

Members noted the update.

SAC67 Date and Time of Future Meeting

The date and time was Tuesday 21st March, 2017 at 4.30pm

(Signed) Councillor L. Farthing,
Chairman