

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held in Committee Room 1B - County Hall, Durham on Thursday 1 November 2018 at 1.30 pm

Present:

P Welch (Chairman) In the Chair

Church of England

H Tait and C Weir

Other Religious Denominations and Faiths

J Bainbridge	- Methodist Church
W Gray	- Buddhism
J Nicholls	- Society of Friends (Quaker)
J Pallister	- Roman Catholic
C Singh	- Sikhism
C Spencer	- Bahá'í Faith
M Turner	- Islam

Teachers Associations

S Baker	- NEU
B Dunn	- RE Curriculum Group
A Hartley	- NASUWT
S Lupton	- RE Curriculum Group

County Council Representatives

Councillor C Martin

Co-opted Member

S Walker - Humanist

Specialist Inspector (Religious Education)

Isobel Short

1 Introductions, Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from V Bain, Councillor P Brookes, N Chapman, M Dixon, V Gallant and Bhakti Rasa Adhikhara.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Canon L Burton who was in attendance as a Member of the Public.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in relation to the items of business on the agenda.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5 Chairs Comments

The Chairman referred to the Commission on Religious Education Report which would be considered under a separate agenda item and indicated that when considering this item he would be asking Members to break into discussion groups.

He also advised Members that the bursary for teacher training had increased to £9,000 due to a shortage of RE teachers.

He then referred to the Co-option of Canon L Burton to Durham SACRE, who has recently returned to the North East. He indicated that if she was unable to fill the current Church of England vacancy on Durham SACRE then her Co-option as a Member of Durham SACRE would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

6 Presentation from a SACRE Member

That the item be considered at the next meeting of Durham SACRE.

7 Secondary Curriculum Group - Key Stage 4 RE

The Chairman referred to the Secondary Curriculum Group that had been set up by Isobel Short and supported by Karenza Passmore. This group is looking at Religious Education at Key Stage 4. The Chairman advised Members that the group had met twice and consisted of 6 teachers.

S Lupton and B Dunn who were both part of the Secondary Curriculum Group spoke about the work the group had done.

The Chairman commented that the group had a lot of work to do.

8 CoRE Report: The Way Forward

Members considered the circulated report of the RE Advisor that looked at the eleven recommendations from the final report from the Commission of Religious Education on Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward. (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Chairman asked Members to split into two groups to discuss recommendation 8, which was the proposed change to legislation regarding the establishment of Standing Advisory Council's on Religious Education (SACREs) by local authorities, details of which had been circulated with the agenda.

From the discussion groups, the following points were raised:

- Does the name change from network to statutory really make a difference?
- SACRE may become a diminished force
- How does the name change affect the status and role of SACRE?
- Teachers still require support and contacts
- If a national curriculum is being put into place is SACRE at risk?
- Currently the role of Durham SACRE has a strong impact, would this change
- A lot of vagueness and confusion of real role behind the statements
- Members liked the greater emphasis on training but what link and role would SACRE have?

The Chairman thanked Members for their contribution.

Resolved: That the report and comments be noted.

9 RE Adviser Report

Members considered the RE Subject Adviser Report for the Autumn Term 2018 (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The report contained the following items:

- RE Networks
 - Primary Network – 26 September 2018
 - Secondary Network – 22 November 2018
 - RE Special Focus Network – 28 November 2018
- NASACRE
- Agreed Syllabus Revision

Members discussed the contents of the report, in particular the marketing of the Agreed Syllabus to provide an income for the local authority.

Resolved: (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That the marketing of the Agreed Syllabus to generate an income be considered at the next SACRE meeting.

10 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of Durham SACRE would be held on 7 March 2019.