

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

At a meeting of the **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)** held at County Hall, Morpeth on Wednesday, 31 January 2018 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Councillor W. Daley
Chairman, in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Crosby, W.
Pidcock, B.

Thorne, T.N.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVES

Bainbridge, Mrs. E.

REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER CHURCHES & FAITHS

Van der Velde, Mrs. D.
Marley, Rev. E.H.

Khan, Ms. M.

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES

Duffield, A.

Shaw, Mrs. H.

CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES (Observers)

Dearlove, S.
Gibson, S.

North East Humanists
Principal - Secondary Years,
Northumberland Church of England
Academy
Teacher Representative, Ponteland
High School

Naylor, Ms. C.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

P. André	Part-time RE Consultant
D. Cookson	Commissioner for Secondary Education
Mrs. A. Todd	Democratic Services Officer

23. MEMBERSHIP

Ms Caitlin Naylor, of Ponteland High School, was welcomed to her first meeting as a co-opted Teacher Representative, temporarily appointed to replace Mr Mark Davidson who was on a long-term leave of absence from work.

Ms Mariam Khan, of IDC North-East, was welcomed to her first meeting as a Muslim Representative.

The Chairman reported the decision of Mrs Chris Butterworth to stand down as the North-East Humanist Representative after more than 10 years as a member of the Northumberland SACRE. The Chairman agreed to write a letter of thanks to Mrs Butterworth, on behalf of the SACRE, for her commitment and valued contribution to the work of the Northumberland SACRE. Following this Mr Stuart Dearlove, was welcomed to his first meeting as the new North-East Humanist Representative.

Consideration was given to an expression of interest received from a teacher of a special school within the county, to become a member of the Northumberland SACRE. The Chairman welcomed the expression of interest and it was agreed to invite Mrs. M. Waringham to attend future meetings of the SACRE as a co-opted Teacher Representative.

Mrs Helen Shaw reported to members of the SACRE that she had recently retired as a teacher and therefore at the next Teacher Union meeting a suitable replacement would be agreed. Mrs Shaw advised that until such time as a new teacher representative was appointed she was happy to continue to attend SACRE meetings.

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Naylor, Ms. Khan and Mr. Dearlove to the meeting of the Northumberland SACRE, as newly appointed representatives.

24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. J. Cousin, Bhakti Rasa Adhikhara and Miss. F. Gannon.

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25. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education held on 15 November 2017, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman subject to removing Mr. S. Gibson from the record of attendance.

26. AN UPDATE OF CONTACTS WITH SCHOOLS AND TRAINING PROVISION

The SACRE members received an update from Mr Phil André, RE Consultant, about his provision of RE in-service training and contacts with schools since the last related meeting (a copy of which is filed with the signed minutes as Appendix A).

Phil André drew the attention of members to the increased number of CPD training events being requested following the successful RE Conference.

A comment was raised regarding school visits and the sometimes unrealistic demands felt by the host. It was agreed to gently remind schools of the need to fit in with the host and suggested this issue be included in the next edition of the SACRE newsletter.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

27. NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE NEWSLETTER

(a) Members received a copy of the 36th issue of the Northumberland SACRE newsletter, dated January 2018. (A copy has been filed with the signed minutes).

It was noted that the membership needed to be amended to reflect the various positions held by Rev Ted Marley on the Northumberland SACRE. It was agreed to amend the next edition of the SACRE newsletter to show the following:-

United Reformed Church (URC)	Rev. E.H. Marley OBE
Baptist Church	Represented by the URC
Methodist Church (SENEA)	Represented by the URC

RESOLVED that the newsletter be received.

(b) Consideration was given to the arrangements for the articles to be included in the next edition of the SACRE Newsletter, Issue No.37, of the SACRE newsletter (for April 2018).

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It was noted an article had already been received from a school that had held a Holocaust Memorial Day event. It was suggested the next newsletter also include an article promoting continuing professional development and the benefits of getting involved with the SACRE. It was noted officers had not been responsible for the photographs included within this newsletter but would be mindful in future when proof reading to ensure the images were appropriate.

Reminder any copy documents in word format to be sent to Phil André in the first instance by the first week of March for inclusion in the next edition of the SACRE newsletter – issue No.37 for April 2018.

RESOLVED that the position be noted.

28. NASACRE ISSUES

(a) The NASACRE Newsletter – SACRE News– Issue 17

Members received the January newsletter – for information (copy filed with the signed minutes as as Appendix B).

Members welcomed the content and information provided in the NASACRE newsletters.

Reminder of web site link: www.nasacre.org.uk for other interesting articles.

RESOLVED that the NASACRE Briefing No. 17 be received.

(b) The Westhill/NASACRE Awards 2018-19

Members noted that SACRE's had been invited to bid for Westhill Awards in the 2018-19 round. The closing date to submit a bid was to be 31 March 2018. Two or three schools from Northumberland had indicated their intention to apply for the awards.

Mr. Phil André drew to the attention of members an opportunity for schools to apply for an excellence award called School of Sanctuary. At present no school within the county had been awarded this accreditation however a number of schools continue to successfully foster a culture of welcome and inclusion which he thought should be celebrated. It was suggested an article to promote this award be drafted for the next edition of the Northumberland SACRE newsletter.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

(c) Proposed changes to the NASACRE Constitution

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Members were informed that a response to the proposed changes to the NASACRE constitution had been submitted.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

29. STATUTORY ANNUAL NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE REPORT FOR 2016/17 ACADEMIC YEAR

Members received a copy of the (draft) statutory annual report of Northumberland SACRE, for consideration and approval (a copy of which is filed with the signed minutes and marked as Appendix C).

The revised format for the Annual Report was noted, along with some minor amendments to the current membership of the Northumberland SACRE.

The members of SACRE formally endorsed the draft statutory annual report of Northumberland SACRE for the 2016-17 academic year.

RESOLVED that the statutory annual report of the Northumberland SACRE for the 2016-17 academic year be approved and circulated for distribution including, as usual, one copy being submitted to the NASACRE in pdf format.

30. SURVEY OF SCHOOL RE PROVISION

SACRE members were asked to consider whether SACRE should undertake an exercise to survey the current levels of RE provision across Northumberland schools, and to see if schools were complying with their RE statutory responsibilities and the content of the agreed syllabus.

Mr Dave Cookson circulated a document written by Deborah Weston, a teacher and the research officer for the National Association of Teachers of RE titled 'Why SACREs should complain to schools when they neglect RE' for consideration.

Members agreed that an exercise to establish the current levels of RE provision across Northumberland schools would help the SACRE carry out one of their statutory duties. This would also help inform the next RE conference and highlight areas where further support and guidance could be offered to improve RE provision.

Members discussed the impact not including RS GCSE in the EBacc had on RE provision and the need to support schools and teachers (particularly younger teachers who may not subscribe to a religious faith) to help them meet the recommended entitlement for RE. A very challenging GCSE Islam syllabus was also discussed. It was noted that officers had a good working relationship with all

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schools within the county and it was believed there would be a good response rate if a survey was undertaken.

It was suggested members of SACRE take the opportunity to read the document and for the issue to be discussed in detail at their next meeting. It was proposed that, if agreed at the next meeting, a survey of school RE provision could be carried out in September.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the information be noted
- (b) the issue be considered in more detail at the next meeting of SACRE.

31. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY (HMD) 2018

Members were advised of the positive feedback received from those that attended Holocaust Memorial Day activities at County Hall.

The Chairman stated that Northumberland SACRE along with the wider school network would all receive an invite to attend next year's Holocaust Memorial Day activities at County Hall. It was suggested members of SACRE be advised of the HMD activities as soon as possible to ensure they could diarise the date.

Members commented on events they had attended across the county including those in schools and the importance of learning from the past to inform people's lives today, ensuring that everyone worked together to create a safer, better future.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

32. COMMISSION ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CoRE) INTERIM REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Members were asked to discuss the interim report's recommendations (an extract from the CoRE report has been enclosed as Appendix D).

Mr Phil André reported that letters had been sent to all schools inviting them to contribute to the consultation associated with the interim report and individual members of SACRE had also responded to the recommendations. Mrs Josephine Cousin, in her absence, had provided a number of questions and issues arising from the report's recommendations which she thought should be discussed in detail; particularly regarding a renewed and expanded role for SACREs. It was suggested SACRE could utilise the questions sent in by Mrs Cousin to start a wider discussions on the future remit of SACRE at their next meeting.

RESOLVED that the CoRE interim report recommendations be considered at the

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next meeting.

33. INFORMATION ITEM

The following email had been received for information:-

“Dear Colleague,

Youth inter faith engagement – your views and examples

I am writing from the Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN), which is carrying out a special programme of work on youth inter faith engagement. This programme is taking forward development of a new edition of its Connect youth inter faith action guide and preparing a special discussion paper about youth inter faith engagement for a youth-focused National Meeting on 4 July. It is doing this with the assistance of an Advisory Group.

As part of this, IFN is seeking to draw in experiences from a range of relevant organisations, including SACREs, many of which carry out work with a youth inter faith dimension.

If you think this project is relevant to the work of your SACRE – for example if you coordinate a Youth SACRE or run inter faith activities for pupils in your area – I would be extremely grateful if you or a colleague could fill in a short survey.

If you click on <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/3556485OWI8>, you will be taken to the survey which seeks help in providing:

- *details of youth inter faith projects that member bodies have been involved with;*
- *youth inter faith resources*
- *member bodies’ engagement with schools; and*
- *opportunities for young people in leadership and governance roles*

The deadline for responses is Friday 16 February 2018.

The questionnaire can be filled in and submitted online but a printable copy of the survey is also attached. This is to enable conversation/consultation with colleagues if helpful.

The Advisory Group is co-facilitated by Ms Padideh Sabeti and Ms Jaskiran Kaur Mehmi. Ms Sabeti is a Trustee of IFN and is Director of the Office of Public Affairs of the Baha’i Community in the UK and Ms Kaur is a student at the LSE, and has been a committee member of Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship.

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Thank you very much in advance for your response, and please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions about the questionnaire or this programme of work.

*Best wishes,
Ashley Beck*

*Mr Ashley Beck
Inter Faith Development Officer”*

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

34. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday, 7 March 2018

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____

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