

PETERBOROUGH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Venue: Forli Room, Town Hall
Thursday 10th March 2016, 6.30 p.m.

Minutes of meeting

Present

Adrian Peters (AP)
Ian Forsyth (IF) - Chair
Caroline Curtis (Clerk)
Helen Manley (HM)
James Groombridge (JG)

Apologies

Nick Senior (NSr)
Dave Roberts (DR)
Barbara Crellin (BC)
Iain Simper (IS)
Vivienne Fleet (VF)
Philip Davies (PD)
Cllr Brian Rush (BR)
John Flack (JF)
Zulfikar Manji (ZM)
Gurdev Singh (GS)
Cllr Jonas Yonga (JY)
Sukaina Manji (SM)
Lucia Hawes (Permanent Clerk/ LH)

No.	Agenda Item	Action
1	Welcome and apologies for absence	
1.1	<p>The apologies for absence were accepted. Caroline Curtis was welcomed to the meeting as Cover Clerk.</p> <p>Helen Manley arrived late due to traffic issues. The items she needed to report back on were dealt with upon her arrival, which was after items 1 – 8 and most of item 9 had been discussed (see below), but for ease of reference the 'matters arising' have been kept in the order of the minutes of the previous meeting and HM's comments added.</p>	
1.2	The Clerk informed that the meeting was not quorate (no representative from) and that any decisions could be ratified via email sent round by Lucia Hawes, Clerk. It was noted that the February meeting had not taken place as numbers were so low.	
2	Minutes of the last meeting (21st October 2016)	
2.1	<p>The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record of the meeting but as numbers were so low it was agreed that Lucia Hawes would e-mail round to members of the council asking for any amendments within a week of the date the e-mail had been sent. Subject to any e-mailed changes the minutes would then be approved and signed.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to email to ask absent members to offer any amendments to the minutes by one week after they have been sent out.</p>	Clerk

3	Matters arising from the minutes	
3.1	Items 2.1 and 3.1 The Clerk had emailed absent members to ratify the election of chair and vice chair by e-mail and this had been agreed.	Clerk
3.2	Item 5.1 The Development sub group had met but in the absence of the members of the group, it was not possible for a proposal on the procedure for co-opting members and dealing with public attendance at meetings to take place. See also 8.1.	Agenda item
3.3	Item 5.5 IF has not received a reply from Lord Nash and this item was closed.	
3.4	Item 5.2 In the absence of Gurdev Singh it was not possible to discuss the item on the development of cross curriculum material.	GS Agenda item
3.5	Item 5.7 HM sent out a letter to schools on behalf of SACRE to offer the support of various faiths and a contact name and email for advice.	
3.6	Item 6.1 HM has made sure that statutory information with regards to RE on the school website is added to the network meetings' agendas. Clerk has emailed all RE Co-ordinators to make them aware.	
3.7	<p>Item 7.1 HM has received the development plan.</p> <p>The budget was discussed. The meeting asked HM/ IF to clarify the budget share from SACRE of £6,321 for Local Authority and Clerking costs. The Clerking costs were not disputed but members questioned what the remaining money was spent on in the absence of Susie Hall.</p> <p>It was noted that Lynne Rayner is now in charge of this area and follow up is needed for a more detailed break down with her to see what this money is being spent on. No LA officer comes to the committee meetings. A formal budget was requested. Other members of the committee have also questioned where the money is going.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the role of the Adviser. Since the Adviser is shared between 3 SACRE committees (Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough), there are savings. Gary Perkins in discussion with HM has clarified that each SACRE gives a sum of money to a kitty to fund the adviser and, for instance, the adviser goes to conference on behalf of all 3 SACRES.</p> <p>In the absence of GS it was not possible to have an update on the possible use of money for transport to provide visits to places of worship. This money had been set aside in the budget and the board were concerned that the money might be taken away if it had not been spent. HM to check.</p>	<p>HM also to follow up</p> <p>IF to e-mail Lynne Rayner</p> <p>HM</p>
3.8	<p>Item 10.1 Iain Simper has e-mailed through a summary of the school survey results and this has been included in the annual report which was sent out with the papers for the meeting.</p> <p>The sub group had met. No update was given.</p>	
3.9	Item 11 Research update - IF has received feedback and is collating a	IF

	<p>spreadsheet. It will go out to members of the Board by e-mail and be included in the annual report.</p> <p>IF reported that the report was not complete. Although the survey about the teaching of RE in schools had gone out widely, the report back had been patchy. It will come back to the autumn meeting.</p> <p>Item 12.1 A replacement adviser for Sue Ward is anticipated. He/she would probably be shared with Rutland and Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>It was noted that there will be no new adviser until September. There was a discussion to decide if it was appropriate to delay looking at the Development plan until then. It was agreed that unfortunately this had to be postponed until then.</p> <p>JG needs to talk to members of the Christian community for his project.</p>	<p>Agenda item</p> <p>JG</p>
3.10	Item 13.1 More people are needed to draft the annual report.	
4	<p>Correspondence: NASACRE conference and AGM on 17th May in London</p> <p>Philip Davis will be in attendance. It was agreed to ask Lucia to e-mail out to all members of the Board to see if they would like to attend – replies to be sent to her.</p> <p>JG will check to see if he is allowed the day away from school and will inform LH if he can attend.</p>	<p>HM</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>JG/ Clerk</p>
5	SACRE Budget update	
5.1	See below.	
6	Transport to places of worship	
6.1	SM and GS have looked into this and the proposal will be based on SM's findings at Primary level. Unfortunately in the absence of SM and GS this proposal could not be discussed or agreed.	Agenda item
7	SACRE adviser recruitment update	
7.1	<p>HM updated the meeting. A tender process had been put in place and only one tender bid was received. This person was interviewed (Gary Perkins from PCC was also present), but was not found to be suitable.</p> <p>It was agreed that this was not the best method of recruitment and did not reach the right audience. The job will instead be advertised as a job. Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) would be the employer on a 3 year fixed term contract and Peterborough (PCC) and Northamptonshire Councils would have a 3 year contract with CCC. The appointment would start on 1st September.</p> <p>HM will run this by Lynne Rayner at PCC/ HR at the Council as well as HR at CCC.</p> <p>The job would consist of 2 days/week for the 3 counties. It was noted that</p>	<p>Agenda update needed</p> <p>HM</p>

	<p>this was less time than Sue, (the previous incumbent) had had for 2 counties. Time would be spent in schools and for support of the SACRE groups. If individual schools wanted extra support, they could 'buy in' to the adviser's time as a consultant.</p> <p><u>The Board asked how schools would manage with so much less back up.</u></p> <p>Solutions suggested included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools ringing in with questions – feedback more limited. A website link to 'Frequently Asked Questions' would be set up. • A more self-reliant approach – monitoring and a buddy system for teachers/ CTLs to meet up and mentor each other is needed. • It was noted that there are not enough specialised RE teachers available, more training is needed for allocated subject leaders. <p><u>How is RE included in the school curriculum?</u></p> <p>In Primary school Ofsted reports, it has been noted recently, RE is often folded into the heading 'preparing children for life in modern Britain'. SMSC is also closely linked with RE provision. Schools may call RE lessons 'Values' or 'Humanities'. It is expected that diversity issues will be covered in RE lessons.</p> <p>SACRE needs to work out how to help schools and how to make them see how very important studying RE is.</p>	<p>Agenda item</p> <p>Agenda item</p>
8	Cross curriculum development working party report	
8.1	In the absence of GS no report was given.	Agenda item
9	SACRE to suggest topics for presentation at SACRE meetings	
9.1	<p>Members of the Board referred to the visit to the committee by a teacher at the Phoenix School which had been inspirational. It was agreed that the ideal candidate would be a teacher on the ground dealing with the day to day issues of delivering the RE curriculum in the classroom. Looking at the scheme of work and implementing the new curriculum would be very helpful.</p> <p>It was agreed that a teacher attending the secondary RE network meetings and one from the primary RE network meetings would be invited in.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to contact HM to ask for the lead person of each group and to ask that person to find a representative to come and talk to the SACRE board.</p> <p>It was noted that AP had put out a survey on the teaching of RE and this talk would supplement the information provided.</p> <p>7.00pm HM arrived.</p>	<p>Clerk Agenda item</p>

	<p><u>Future meetings</u></p> <p>It was suggested that a member of the Muslim community could come to the meeting to discuss how the group could better interact with them - SM was suggested as a speaker. Those from other minority communities could also be invited to talk to future meetings.</p> <p>IF had met with Alexandra Carlton the Educational Director at the Cathedral and it was suggested that a meeting might be held in the Cathedral. The committee would like to meet in places of worship from time to time.</p>	<p>Agenda item</p> <p>Possible venue</p>
10	Results of SACRE school RE survey	
10.1	This has been completed in draft format. The results were patchy rather than comprehensive. It will be included into the report for 2015-15 by IF.	IF
11	Results of the syllabus survey	
11.1	<p>AP reported that only 10 schools had replied but the feedback was encouraging. He will send out his findings by e-mail.</p> <p>The additional support material he had sent through had been described as 'a godsend'.</p> <p>There was a common request for more help with assessment. HM suggested that a constructive approach to providing good assessment would be to provide children 'can do' x, y or z instead of seeking to find out age related expectations which are not yet known. RE is not a National Curriculum subject. HM will send on information on this to Lucia Hawes with a request for her to e-mail it to the SACRE Board members. It can then go out to Peterborough Schools – HM to send on.</p> <p>HM referred to a review of the RE syllabus that will be taking place in Cambridgeshire. The syllabus does not need to be reviewed in Peterborough for another year but it will take a year to get any changes through so the timing could be appropriate. There is currently a shared adviser for Northants, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough so this seems logical.</p> <p><u>Agenda item – Proposal to join with Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire SACRE for a joint syllabus review.</u> The proposal is that this would take place on a Saturday at the end of October. A member suggested that a lot of change would meet with resistance in schools.</p>	<p>AP</p> <p>IF / All</p> <p>HM/ Clerk</p> <p>HM</p> <p>Clerk to put on agenda for next meeting</p>
12	Report from Sub groups Development sub group – proposal for co-opting members and dealing with public attendance	
12.1	In the absence of GS this could not be discussed.	
13	Annual SACRE report 2014-15 progress so far	
13.1	<p>The Clerk has been sent information through.</p> <p>IF to do the Chair's report and to write a 'thank you' to Sue Ward.</p> <p>HM had brought data to the meeting and this will be e-mailed out and</p>	IF

	<p>then included in the report. Papers were given out to members of the board and data discussed. For instance:</p> <p>There is a downward spiral for the number of students being entered for GCSE RE but the pass rate for this subject at GCSE in Peterborough is higher than the national average.</p> <p>The pass rate for 'A' RE in Peterborough is the same as the national average.</p> <p><u>Members asked about the provision of religious education for students not studying RE.</u></p> <p>In some schools no RE is taught to GCSE but SACRE need to know how they are 'preparing children for life in modern Britain'/ SMSC/ delivering the 'prevent' strategy etc. – it is a statutory requirement for schools to provide this education and for SACRE to monitor this but it is not a duty for schools to reply to SACRE nor to explain how they are assessing what is learnt. How many of the students are working to age – related expectations (but see above)? Cambridgeshire also faces this issue.</p> <p>Action: HM to e-mail Philip Davies to ask him to take this issue to the National SACRE committee. It would be helpful to know how other SACREs deal with this issue.</p>	HM
14	Any other business	HM Agenda item
14.1	None.	
15	Date and venue of next meeting	
15.1	Tuesday 28 th June at 6.30pm – Town Hall	

The meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed: _____
Chair of SACRE