

# ITEM 4

Time commenced – 6.00pm

Time finished – 7.32pm

## STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

10 October 2017

Present:

### Group A – Christianity and Other World Faiths

Eve Sacker	Jewish Faith (appointed as Chair)
Rev Philip Webb	Baptist Church
Raj Bali	Hindu Faith
Phil Royle	Methodist Church
Lucy Care	Religious Society of Friends
Rev Roy Ninkovic	Serbian Orthodox Church

### Group B – Church of England

Viv Lawrence  
Alison Brown  
Katie Lake

### Group C – Teachers' Associations

Melvin Harris	NASUWT
Sally Siner	NUT

### Group D – Local Education Authority

Councillors Graves and Wood

### Co-opted Members

Sam Mitchell	The Open Centre
Peter Harvey	British Humanist Association
Ruth Richardson	Multi-Faith Centre

In Attendance:

Steve Ford	Lead officer to SACRE
Clare Harrison	Derby City Council - Democratic Services
Pam Thompson	Derby City Council - Engagement Officer
Chris Tilley	Derby City Council - Senior School Improvement Officer

16/17 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Turner, Anderson and Carr, Mair Bradley, Wendy Hardy, Reverend Anita Matthews and Dr Hardial Singh Dhillon.

## 17/17 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

## 18/17 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 19/17 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 27 June 2017 and Matters Arising

Members asked for information on paragraph 07/17 to be corrected to reflect that Anita Matthews was the named appointee to the Church of England in the first resolution and correct the representative group for the NASUWT to Group C in the second resolution.

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2017 as amended were agreed as an accurate record.

## 20/17 SACRE Membership, Resignations and Vacancies

It was reported to the Committee that The Open Centre representative, Kate McRae, had tendered her resignation and thanked the committee members for the company and the shared commitment to the SACRE. Members were also informed that Errol Vassell would be joining the SACRE as a representative for the Pentecostal Church from 27 February 2018.

### **It was resolved:**

- 1. to accept the resignation of Kate McRea and wish her well for the future; and**
- 2. to agree that Errol Vassell be appointed as the new Pentecostal Church representative in Group A from 27 February 2018.**

## 21/17 Findings of Section 48 Inspection of Religious Education in Derby Diocese Church of England Schools 2016/17

Alison Brown, Church of England representative, outlined the results from an inspection of 37 schools in the Derby Diocese are which looked at the quality of teaching and learning of Religious Education. It was reported that 13 of these are Voluntary Aided Schools and of these, 54% were judged to be providing 'Outstanding' Religious Education, 38% 'Good' and 8% 'Satisfactory'. None were

judged to be inadequate.

There was a list of strengths reported as result of the inspection, with two of the highlights being that Religious Education makes a good contribution to children's understanding of the Christian faith and that the schools' broad curriculum contributes effectively to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of learners.

A number of areas for improvement were identified, including the embedding of materials from the Understanding Christianity resource in order to supplement the current curriculum and deepen the pupils' understanding of the Christian faith, as well as to further enhance children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development.

The Board were informed that the inspection provides a snapshot of what's happening in Church schools. Members were informed that the next resource to be published would be on Understanding Islam, and Hinduism is likely to follow that. It was noted that revision of the agreed syllabus will need to be considered in 2018/19.

**It was resolved to note the report.**

## 22/17 Discussion on Prevent Strategy

The SACRE considered a report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place updating the Committee of the Prevent Strategy. The Head of Service for Partnerships and Communities reported that in June 2011, the Government published its Prevent strategy. The Committee was informed that Derby's Prevent Plan is a localised translation and delivery of the national strategy, and that the current plan is currently being refreshed.

It was reported that the Derby Prevent Plan is a partnership plan, led by the council, including all partners who have a statutory duty to deliver the prevent plan, and has 5 key elements. Partners involved are the police, special branch, regional CITU, security services, probation, health and schools.

It was further reported that there are 5 key elements of the plan which have varied levels of success:

- Channel programme: identifying vulnerable individuals and families and putting in place interventions of support and challenge – this is a consensual programme so around 10% of those identified don't consent.
- Delivery of 2 key projects, a women's project and young person's project, both delivered by CET in Normanton – both of these projects were developed by the Council and work well.
- Engaging with communities, networks and institutions, to raise awareness of prevent and build community reliance – there is a weakness around engagement with certain communities, including some parts of the Muslim community, which presents a challenge.

- Delivery of training to partners and front-line professionals to identify the risks of radicalization and referral processes – we perform quite strongly in this area.
- Working in partnership to manage the risk of extremist speakers and venue that host them – this is not as much of an issue anymore in Derby.

The Committee was informed that there are 2 main forms of funding to support the delivery of the Prevent Plan. Police resources consist of the Prevent Team, based at St Marys Wharf, and a Government grant from the Home Office which funds a local Prevent co-ordinator and the local projects. The Home Office have recently offered to fund a post to work more directly with schools to assist them in development their own interventions. Added to this Operation Dovetail is a Government project aimed at transferring the management of the Channel programme from the police to the local authority.

Members asked for more detail on what the school officer will do and were informed that this work would involve training staff and raising awareness of the risks, signs and the right referral mechanisms for extremist behaviours. It was reported that the post will aim to build stronger relationships with education providers and the responsible authorities and help with the safeguarding of younger people. The Committee was encouraged by plans to appoint a colleague to work directly in education and felt that it would be useful for this person to make links with some of the people on SACRE, including the Multi-Faith Centre and the Open Centre.

Members queried if training is still being delivered to partner organisations and were reassured that although there has been an abeyance in this over the summer period, when there was no Co-ordinator in place, however this gap has now been filled and the training will re-energised.

Members queried if it is the role of Ofsted to inspect community cohesion, but were informed that this is not their role locally in educational establishments. It was further queried if therefore Ofsted are not doing enough on this, but were informed by the Partnerships and Communities Officer that a lot of time has been spent during the last year working with inspectors on very operational and detailed matters relating to channel cases.

**It was resolved to recommend that the appointed schools officer be encouraged to make links with relevant members of the SACRE to enable effective partnership working.**

## 23/17 SACRE Constitution - Reconsideration of the quorum

It was suggested that the quorum could be adjusted to increase the number of possible representatives from Group C from 1 to 2. The Chair requested that the Democratic Services Officer responsible for supporting the SACRE check the legalities surrounding possible changes to the constitution, and the Unions check the National position and bring a proposal to the next meeting in relation to the Group C

quoracy.

The Chair requested Members therefore defer the discussion and reconsideration of this item to the next meeting on 27 February 2018.

**It was resolved to:**

- 1) retain the present quorum;**
- 2) request that the Democratic Services Officer responsible for supporting the SACRE check the legalities surrounding possible changes to the constitution;**
- 3) request that the Union representatives check the National position and bring a proposal to the next meeting in relation to the Group C quoracy; and**
- 4) discuss the future quorum at the next SACRE meeting on 27 February 2018.**

## **24/17 Derby Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education – Derbyshire Humanist Supplement**

Peter Harvey, the representative for Derbyshire Humanist Association, outlined the content of the report for Members and informed the Committee that the group has been rebranded as Humanists UK.

It was reported that the supplement for Derbyshire has been based on the Manchester version and has not been substantially altered from this. The Committee was informed that the document has been well researched and is very informative. Its purpose is to assist teachers in the provision of information and guidance on the Humanist belief system and the choice that many people make to live with a moral compass and set of values that are not linked to a deity. The document also covers humanist (non-religious ceremonies) such as naming ceremonies.

Members of the SACRE were informed that according to the 2011 Census, 52% of respondents claimed their religion as Christianity, 28% claimed to have no religion, 7% did not state any religious preference and 13% said that they were of an 'other' religion. Members were also informed that results of the British Social Attitudes survey revealed that the proportion of people in Britain who describe themselves as having no religion has reached more than half at 53%, for the first time. It was suggested that the results of these surveys are evidence that the views of children who do not have a religion more weight should be taken into account, and that the supplement will help non-religious children have their views recognised.

It was reported that the currently syllabus makes almost no mention for teachers on how to educate children on humanist and non-religious views and beliefs.

The Humanist UK representative asked for the SACRE to raise any questions and

asked for agreement to adopt the supplement. Members were in full support of having something on humanist views and beliefs to support the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus, however had not had an opportunity to consider the content of the full document and felt that they were not able to do this until they had had a chance to see and discuss this.

**It was resolved to:**

- 1) request that the Humanist UK representative circulate the full version of the Humanist Supplement for consideration; and**
- 2) Following receipt of the full Humanist Supplement, consider its approval as a supplement to the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus at the next SACRE meeting on 27 February 2018.**

## **25/17      Local Update and Visits**

The Humanist UK representative reported to Members that the next planned visit is to the school in West Hallam.

## **26/17      National Updates**

It was reported that the 'The State of the Nation: A report on Religious Education provision within secondary schools in England' report had been published.

**It was resolved to provide the Democratic Services Officer responsible for supporting the SACRE with a link to the document for distribution.**

## **15/17      Any Other Business**

It was reported that Interfaith Week was taking place from 12-19 November, and that posters on the Hinduism lecture on 24 October) and the lecture on Wrestling with Modernity: Enlightenment to ISIS on 13 November, would be distributed to the SACRE.

MINUTES END