

Time commenced - 7.15 pm
Time finished - 9.10 pm

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION
12 FEBRUARY 2008**

Present: **Committee A**

Dr Hardial Singh Dhillon (Sikh Faith)
Lucy Care (Religious Society of Friends)
Rev Mair Bradley (United Reformed Church)
Ruth Dolby (Jewish Faith)
Rev R Ninkovic (Serbian Orthodox Church)
Joan Price (Pentecostal Church)
Phil Royle (Methodist Church)
David Ginns (Buddhist Faith)
Kate Tippen (Roman Catholic Church)

Committee B (Church of England)

Alison Brown
Viv Lawrence

Committee C (Teachers' Associations)

Kate McRae (NAHT)
David Nichols (SHA)

Committee D (Local Authority)

Councillor Ginns
Councillor Higginbottom
Councillor Turner
Councillor Willoughby

Co-opted Members

Mike Lake (British Humanist Association)
Carrie Edwards (Multi Faith Centre)

Also present

Mike Sobey (Derby City Safeguarding Team – Policy Officer)
Graham Falgate (Education Officer)
Jacq Dobson (Derbyshire Pagans)
Sarah Turner (Constitutional Services Officer)
Chris Gregson (Constitutional Services Officer)
Norman Cruz (Public attendee)

18/07 Apologies

Apologies were received from Rosemary Wibberley (Church of England), Joan Hodgkinson (NUT), Councillor R Khan (Local Authority) and Mr Mohan Singh Manku (Sikh Faith)

19/07 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

20/07 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

21/07 Presentation by Member of Derbyshire Pagans

The SACRE received a presentation from Jacq Dobson about Paganism. She gave an introduction to the beliefs and customs of Paganism, and gave examples of the difficulties children in Pagan families can experience at school.

Members thanked Jacq for her presentation.

22/07 Consideration of appointment of co-opted member

The SACRE considered whether to appoint Jacq Dobson as a co-opted member.

Resolved to appoint Jacq Dobson (Derbyshire Pagans) as a co-opted member of SACRE for a period of 12 months.

22/07 Minutes

The minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 19 November 2007 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

23/07 Matters Arising

14/07 Operation Christmas Child

A letter from Samaritans Purse regarding Operation Christmas Child was distributed to the SACRE. It was reported that the SACRE issued advice to schools on 4 December regarding the charity.

Resolved to discuss this matter at the next meeting.

24/07 Safeguarding in a faith environment

The SACRE received feedback on the draft document from Mark Sobey, DSCB Policy Officer. The document gave guidance on safeguarding children in places of worship.

The SACRE thanked Mark for his presentation, and for the high quality of the draft report. Mark advised that the document was designed for group leaders, and that a range of leaflets was available to inform staff members and volunteers. He also advised that the Act applies to house group meetings where children were present, and that at least one adult must have been CRB checked.

The SACRE asked if a helpline would be available to answer enquiries about the document. A member also asked about the legal position of 16-18 year olds who were responsible for children, and how the balance of risk should be managed between maintaining a high child-adult ratio and having enough adults with CRB clearance.

Mark stated that he would take the comments of the SACRE on board as part of the consultation process. He advised that the final document would be published in May or June. It would be distributed to the SACRE, all faith organisations and the Department for Children and Young People.

Mark informed the SACRE that free Training and Support courses were being arranged for dates in the 2008-09 academic year. He also distributed copies of the CD-ROM 'Breaking the Cycle of Abuse', an e-learning package produced by the Safeguarding Children Board of Derby and Derbyshire.

Resolved to note the draft report.

25/07 Arrangements for Agreed Syllabus Conference / Revision

Graham Falgate, Education Officer, advised that a new Agreed Syllabus would be required by January 2009, to replace the current syllabus 'All Our Worlds'. He advised that 60% of schools had responded to the request for steer on the new syllabus at the time of the meeting, and that the deadline for responses was 22 February.

Graham asked that members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference be agreed at the next meeting. Members would work with school representatives, with Graham and with each other. This proposal was agreed by the SACRE. He advised that non-Members of the SACRE could be invited, and that the input from non-theistic groups would be particularly welcomed.

Resolved to agree members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference at the next meeting of the SACRE.

26/07 Annual SACRE Award - Update

Graham Falgate, Education Officer, informed the meeting that of the three schools that had expressed an interest in the Annual SACRE award, only one wished to enter this year. The other two schools expressed an interest in entering next year's award.

Graham asked the SACRE if they wished to continue with this year's award. The SACRE agreed that it would be unfair to penalise the school that entered. They decided that the award would be made to that school, providing the entry was of a high standard. To a suggestion that the award should carry a non-monetary prize, Graham advised that this was something to consider for next year's award.

Resolved to continue with the current year's Annual SACRE award.

27/07 SACRE Website

Graham Falgate presented the recommendations of the SACRE sub-group on aspects related to the creation of a Derby City SACRE website. There were 12 suggestions on what should initially be covered by the website.

Members discussed how much contact information for Members and organisations should be available on the website. Mike Lake advised that personal addresses and phone numbers should not be posted on the website as the security risks were too great. The SACRE agreed to ask the subgroup to work on a protocol for this process.

Councillor Care asked if meeting papers could be made available on the website. Mike Lake advised that this would be possible with the assistance of the Constitutional Services department.

Graham Falgate advised that the SACRE would need to decide who the webmaster of the website should be at the next meeting.

Resolved to note the recommendations, and to discuss further at the next meeting of the SACRE.

28/07 Feedback from Annual NASACRE Conference

Resolved to defer this item to the next meeting.

29/07 Annual SACRE Report

Graham Falgate, Education Officer, presented the annual report.

Resolved to note the report.

30/07 Feedback from Holocaust Memorial Events

Graham Falgate reported that the Holocaust Memorial Day Event was a success, and hoped that more members would be able to attend next year. Carrie Edwards reported that the Holocaust Memorial Day Service was not as diverse and well-attended as it could have been. Carrie had asked that the Multi Faith Centre join the Steering Group for next year.

31/07 Religious Diversity and Anti-discrimination Training at MFC – Opportunities and Funding

The SACRE was advised that three-day training workshops on Religious Diversity and Anti-Discrimination Training were planned for the following dates: 14/21/28 February 2008, 16/30 April and 14 May 2008, and 3/10/17 June 2008. The workshops would take place at the Multi Faith Centre.

32/07 Resignations and Vacancies

The SACRE were advised that Marilyn French (NASUWT) had resigned, leaving a vacancy. Co-opted Member John Hey (Open Centre) had resigned due to ill health. The SACRE were advised that Full Council had approved the appointment of Kate Tippen (Roman Catholic Church).

Resolved to send the best wishes of the SACRE to John Hey.

33/07 Any Other Business

The SACRE discussed whether a press release should be issued regarding the co-option of Jacq Dobson and/or the launch of the Agreed Syllabus Conference. Members decided that the focus should be on the launch of the Agreed Syllabus Conference. Graham Falgate agreed to issue the press release.

Resolved to issue a press release to publicise the launch of the Agreed Syllabus Conference, that also publicises the diversity of faiths and beliefs represented in the SACRE.

34/07 Presentations for Future Meetings and Dates

Members were advised that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 7 May 2008 at 7.15pm, with a pre-meeting at 6.45pm. The meeting would be held at the Multi Faith Centre.

35/07 Issues related to co-opted members of SACRE, and agreeing protocols for SACRE members

No issues were raised.

MINUTES END