

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Thursday, 15th June, 2017.

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Julie Siddiqi (Chair), Sue Elbrow and Hardip Singh Sohal (Vice-Chair)

Committee 2 – Church of England

Rev Andrew Allen, Christine Isles and Andrew Sparrow

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Lynda Bussley and Linda Lewis

Committee 4 – Representatives of the Local Authority

Councillors Brooker, Parmar, Sarfraz and Sohal

Apologies for Absence:- Waqar Bhatti and Abbas-Bowkan

Vote of Thanks

Members gave a vote of thanks to Jo Fageant, Professional Advisor for all the years of hard work and advice she had provided to Slough SACRE, as she stepped down from the role.

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

It was moved (by Christine Isles), seconded (by Linda Lewis) and agreed that Julie Siddiqi be elected as Chair for the municipal year 2017/18.

It was moved (by Rev Andrew Allen), seconded (by Cllr Sohal) and agreed that Hardip Singh Sohal be elected as Vice-Chair for the municipal year 2017/18.

Resolved:

- a) That Julie Siddiqi be elected as Chair of SACRE for 2017/18.
- b) That Hardip Singh Sohal be appointed as Vice-Chair of SACRE for the municipal year 2017/18.

(Ms Siddiqi in the Chair).

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 14th March 2017

Resolved - That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 14th March 2017 be approved as a correct record subject to replacing 'Dean of Oxford' with 'Dean of Slough' in minute 28.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

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- 4. SACRE Membership Update** It was noted that work was still on-going to fill the remaining membership vacancies.

- 5. SACRE Membership News (An update from members regarding activities undertaken since the last SACRE meeting)**

Julie Siddiqi announced that she was overseeing the national Star project which encouraged people from all faiths to participate in community events. Numerous events had been organised to take place at the weekend where people of all faiths would have the opportunity to get together in Slough.

Councillor (Cllr) Parmar highlighted that events had been organised at Manor Park on Saturday 10 June 2017 from 1pm to 5pm, as part of The Great Get Together instigated by the husband of murdered MP JO Cox to celebrate community cohesion on the anniversary of her death. It was noted that further work was needed to continue to develop and enhance the harmonious integration and cohesion enjoyed in Slough in light of recent terrorist incidents that had taken place in the county.

- 6. Crossing the Bridges Project**

Jo Fageant gave a verbal update on Crossing the Bridges Project.

It was noted that the Places of Worship Directory would continued to be updated and would be uploaded on the Slough council website.

Members were reminded about the forth coming SACRE conference on 28 September 2017. Four places had been reserved for SACRE members who were urged to notify the Clerk if they wished to attend. It was also agreed for an additional four places to be made available for teachers who may also be interested in attending.

Jo Fageant would include details in the Newsletter to schools about the conference and publicise the four paid places on offer to teachers.

Christine Isles would seek permission to include her church website in the Crossing the Bridge directory. Concerns were raised that just two places of worship in Slough were listed in the directory.

The Clerk would circulate the directory forms to all SACRE members to ensure that their places of worship were listed for school visits. The Chair acknowledged the Crossing the Bridges Project as being very positive and welcomed Slough's contribution to the project.

- 7. Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub - SACRE Hub Meetings - Notes for Summer Term 2017**

Jo Fageant reported that just two out of six SACREs were represented at the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub meeting on 25 April 2017. The Central Hub was

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delegated by the six local SACREs and in order for it to be effective, it was imperative for all six SACREs to be represented at all meetings.

Members were urged to attend meetings, particularly the forthcoming meetings regarding the Agreed Syllabus Review, which could not be managed solely by a single SACRE. All SACRE would need to participate in the review process for the review to be effective.

It was suggested that to ensure continued representation from Slough SACRE an alternative member should attend each meeting if the Chair was unable to do so.

The next Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub meeting was confirmed as 12 September 2017 in Wokingham at 4.30pm. The Chair and Christine Isles would attend this meeting but all members were urged to also attend.

The Chair suggested that the next Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub meeting should be held in Slough. The suggested venue would be raised at the meeting on 12 September 2017.

8. Pan-Berkshire Religious Education Agreed Syllabus Review 2017-18 - Time-frame and Process

Jo Fageant advised that the RE Syllabus was shared by six local authorities and was required to be reviewed every 5 years. The last reviewed took place in 2012. It was noted that the process would need to be undertaken even if it resulted in no changes being made.

The proposed detailed plan was based on the last review and the process would require SACRE to set up an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) to lead the review. SACRE would usually become the ASC and the syllabus review matters would be discussed at separate meetings. The Agreed Syllabus was expected to be completed by May 2018. It was noted that the meetings of the ASC would take place immediately after each SACRE meeting. An additional ASC meeting may however be required in the summer term.

Resolved:

- a) That an Agreed Syllabus Conference be set up with immediate effect to lead on the review of the Pan-Berkshire RE Agreed Syllabus.
- b) That the syllabus be agreed by the Agreed Syllabus Conference and ratified by the Council between May and July 2018.

9. Pan-Berkshire Religious Education Agreed Syllabus Review 2017-18 - Consultation Questionnaire

Lynda Bussley left the meeting at 5.43pm.

Jo Fageant reported that the Pan-Berkshire Religious Education Agreed Syllabus Review 2017-18 - Consultation Questionnaire would be included in

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the RE Newsletter to schools. Slough teachers would be invited to attend ASC meetings as part of Teacher Consultation group.

The on-going consultation to teachers would conclude on 21 July 2017 and would be collated by Jan Lever Group and discussed at the SACRE Hub meeting on 12 September 2017. The findings would be reviewed at the Faith and Belief Group Consultation Day on 4 October 2017. Members were encouraged to attend at least part of the day, as it was not a requirement to be in attendance for the whole day. Names of members wishing to attend to be submitted to Jan Lever by the end of September 2017.

It was noted that the consultation questionnaire had also been sent to RE Co-ordinators.

Cllr Sohal left at 5.50m.

10. SACRE Finance/Continuing Advisor Support

It was noted that continued funding for Advisory support to SACRE had been confirmed and that following a tendering process, it had been proposed to offer the advisory contract to the Jan Lever Group.

Resolved – That the update on SACRE Finance/Continuing Advisor Support be noted.

11. Members' Attendance Record

The Members Attendance Record was noted.

12. Date of Next Meeting - 8 November 2017

Jo Fageant highlighted that the Annual SACRE reports covered the period from autumn 2016 to spring 2017 rendering this meeting the last meeting of the SACRE year.

The first meeting of SACRE would therefore be on 8 November 2017.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.35 pm and closed at 6.05 pm)