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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Alan Wunderley Centre, Hall Mead School, Marlborough Gardens, Upminster,
RM14 1SF
23 March 2017 (7.05 - 9.05 pm)**

Present:

Representing other Christian and religious denominations (Group A):

Mrs Christine Seymour (Chairman)
Mrs Pamela Coles (Vice-Chair)
Dr John Lester
Mr Sansar Narwal
Mr Kamal Siddiqui
Saddhabhaya
Mr Kevin Walsh
Mr John Smailes
Mr Nasir Mubashar

Representing the Church of England (Group B):

Mrs Sue Freeman
Mrs Stephanie Ellner
Mr Mike Dean

Representing the Teaching Profession (Group C):

Ms Linda Munday
Ms Louise Linton (observer)

Representing the Local Authority:

Councillor Stephanie Nunn

Julia Diamond Conway, Deborah Weston (professional advisors) and Anthony Clements (clerk) also attended.

65 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting and details were given of action in the case of fire or other event that might require the evacuation of the meeting room.

66 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - IF ANY, TO RECEIVE

Apologies were received from the following members:

Group A: Rabbi Lee Sunderland, Saddhabaya, Jenny Fox, Dawn Ladbrook, Lutheneal Adams

Group C: Kirsty Fanning

Group D: Councillors Joshua Chapman, Gillian Ford, Jason Frost and Dilip Patel

Co-opted Member: Councillor Wendy Brice-Thompson

It was noted that members of groups A and B were able to send substitutes if necessary.

67 **NEW OR SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Louise Linton was welcomed as a provisional new member representing teachers (group C).

It was noted that members of Groups A and B were allowed to send substitutes to the meeting if necessary.

68 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2016 were **AGREED** as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

It was noted that a SACRE representative from Barking & Dagenham who had attended the last meeting as an observer had been complimentary about the organisation of Havering SACRE.

Update on school activity (minute 56) – It was noted that the professional advisor had met with both Sue Sutton and Mary Phillips – the then Head of Learning and Achievement at the Council.

69 **RE AT HALLMEAD SCHOOL AND THE RE QUALITY MARK**

It was noted that Hall Mead School had been awarded the highest level gold Quality Mark for RE. SACRE was able to encourage schools to undertake the Quality Mark audit. This involved a light touch inspection over a single day. Questionnaires were also distributed to children in the school asking what RE work they had undertaken and discussions were of course also held with relevant teachers.

The cost of the Quality Mark application was £450 although discounts were given for smaller schools.

It was **AGREED** that Mrs Diamond-Conway should give a presentation on the RE Quality Mark at a forthcoming subject leads meeting.

70 UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY

Mrs Diamond-Conway reported that the Havering primary RE network had met recently and looked at the snowflake technique which allowed the discussion of differences in an atmosphere of respect. The national survey of primary RE had also been considered at the meeting. Each school had been asked to bring an example of pupils' workbooks to the next meeting as this would allow different standards of work in each school to be checked.

Havering schools had been invited to attend the Redbridge secondary RE group although Ms Linton was not aware of this. It was agreed that Ms Linton should meet separately with the professional advisers to discuss the secondary group.

71 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

It was noted that the RE Commission had now been launched and there was a short time remaining in which to give evidence to this. Mrs Weston had recently given evidence to the Commission and further evidence sessions were planned.

It was noted that SACRE members could access the NASACRE website. The NASACRE conference was planned for 16 May and cost £100 per delegate. The clerk would enquire whether there was any budget available in children's services for this and members were invited to advise the Chair or the professional advisers if they wished to attend.

Information about a book on humanism that was available free of charge to schools could be accessed via the portal.

The professional advisor had asked the Department for Education for a breakdown of funding for the locally agreed RE syllabus in each borough. It was noted that SACREs would still be funded following the planned removal of the Education Grant.

72 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The proposed terms of reference for SACRE (attached) were agreed unanimously for recommendation to the Council.

73 RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE TEACHING OF GCSE

A list of resources on the major faiths had been compiled although it was noted that some of the weblinks listed were no longer valid. Group A SACRE representatives were therefore asked to recommend further websites suitable for RE teachers.

It was noted that other books and websites on Islam were available and details could be sent to the professional advisers.

74 **COMPLAINTS PROTOCOL**

A proposed complaints protocol was before the Council for consideration. It was explained that Havering SACRE had not had a complaints protocol before but that it would not be appropriate for SACRE to investigate complaints about itself.

The professional advisors would check with the Council's Chief Education Officer if a response had now been sent to a complainant who had raised a complaint about SACRE. The formal procedure for making complaints about SACRE in future would be to write to the Council's Chief Education Officer.

It was **AGREED** unanimously that the following be adopted as the Havering SACRE complaints protocol:

Any formal complaints made regarding SACRE will be dealt with by the Chief Education Officer. This protocol should be officially documented.

75 **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Council considered three examples of SACRE codes of conduct from other areas. It had been recommended by the National Association of SACREs that all SACREs should have a code of conduct.

It was **AGREED** that the professional advisors would draft a code of conduct for Havering SACRE and bring this to the next meeting.

76 **NASACRE SURVEY**

A survey had been sent from the National Association (NASACRE) for all SACREs to complete. Members discussed whether there should be a local or national RE syllabus and the majority of those present favoured a combination of the two i.e. a combination of local and national frameworks. Havering's current RE syllabus was based on the national framework but there was a lot of variation across the UK.

It was noted that no final decisions would be taken nationally until the RE Commission report had been published. The professional advisors would complete the survey based on the views expressed at the meeting. The preference for a combination of local and national syllabus frameworks was **AGREED** by 10 votes to 1 for a local syllabus only 0 for a national syllabus only.

77 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was noted that the Tell Mama report on anti-Islamic hate crime had been published some five months ago and it was **AGREED** to wait until a follow

up report had been released before taking any further action. It was noted that a session to assist Havering teachers with the teaching of Islam had recently been organised.

Mr Siddiqui added that the Tell Mama report had been discussed in the Romford Mosque. Whilst the report made it easier to report incidents, Mr Siddiqui felt that the Metropolitan Police was a racist organisation. Mr Siddiqui himself had been attacked in recent months and there had also been incidents of vandalism at the Mosque. Mr Siddiqui felt that this situation could be improved by the correct teaching of Islam – which stated that everyone was equal, in schools. The Chairman added that this was already standard teaching practice. The Havering syllabus covered Islam from Key Stage 1 and Children’s Services monitored RE in schools every two years. SACRE could monitor this in the third year. The professional advisor suggested SACRE could run a training session for teachers on responding to Islamophobia.

Mr Siddiqui felt that there was still a lack of prosecution of hate crimes and that politicians had made problems for the Romford Mosque. The Chairman expressed her sympathy for the bad experiences Mr Siddiqui had undergone. It was noted that SACRE could only cover RE and had no remit over wider issues such as policing.

It was **AGREED** that one hour of the autumn SACRE meeting should be used for training. Training resources from the NASACRE website could be utilised. The professional advisors would bring options for SACRE training to the next meeting.

It was suggested that enquiries could be made as to how many children in Havering were withdrawn from RE classes.

78 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was **AGREED** that the next meeting would be held at St Edward’s Church in Romford on a date to be advised in late June or early July. The meeting would commence at 6 pm.

Chairman

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Havering SACRE, 23 March 2017,

Agenda Item 8 – Terms of Reference

Adviser Report

Proposed SACRE Terms of Reference

Havering SACRE will be represented by members who are willing to support the effective provision for RE and collective worship in schools. All members of Havering SACRE shall be delegates who are interested in education and religious education. The membership shall be allocated to four groups as follows:

Group A: Christian denominations and other religions and religious denominations.

This group is made up of representatives of Christian denominations (other than the Church of England) and other religions, faiths and belief systems. The Local Authority will consider the admission or removal of representatives of new religions, faiths or belief systems by reference to the relative size of that community within the borough and which, in the opinion of the local authority reflect the principal traditions in the area. All members of this group will be appointed by the Local Authority, which will have taken reasonable steps to assure itself that the nominee is representative of the relevant faith groups of Havering and fully supportive of the effective provision for RE and Collective Worship in schools.

Group B: Church of England

Representatives of the Church of England, at least one of whom should be a representative of the Diocese of Chelmsford Board of Education.

Group C: Teacher representatives

Representatives from the teachers' and head teachers' associations. The Local Authority will seek to ensure that teachers on this committee represent a balance of unions and age ranges taught.

Group D: The Local Authority

Representatives of the local authority. As far as possible, membership is politically balanced and is authorised by the Governance Committee of the Council.