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| ***Education Services*** | |
| **Meeting** | SACRE |
| **Venue** | Virtual meeting |
| **Date** | Thursday 14 October 2021 at 16.30 |
| **Present** | Julie Childs, Gillian Georgiou, Julie Beckett, Katherine Bruning, Inga Greet, Amanda Mellows, Reverend Nick Nawrockyi, Nicky Best (Clerk) |
| **Apologies** | Wendy Jackson |

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| ***Agenda Item*** | | ***Attachments/Discussion/Actions*** |
| 1 | Introductions and Welcome | The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. |
| 2 | Apologies | An apology for absence had been received from Wendy Jackson  RESOLVED: That the apology be accepted.  No apologies had been received from Shereen Alankar, Pat Barlow or Nigel Bishop  The Chair advised that due to the absence of any Elected Members, the meeting was not quorate and that no decisions could be made. |
| 3 | Minutes and any matters arising from previous meeting | RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 01 July 2021 be approved.  Wendy Jackson was unable to attend the meeting and she had provided an update on matters arising through the Clerk.    Matters Arising   * **MW to circulate the data and the offer of support to Headteachers and then again in September 2021**. The data around curriculum time spent on RE studies would be discussed at the next round of headteacher meetings. WJ would provide feedback on comments from the headteachers. * **MW would investigate the process of appointing another Councillor onto SACRE**. WJ would invite Cllrs to join the SACRE. * **MW would seek clarification on the NELC meeting protocol.** Not yet happened. * **Move forward with the RE Advisor role.** WJ was to meet with the finance officer to enquire about a potential budget for this role. The job description had been created, and this would need to go to the recruitment panel. It was envisaged that this role would not commence before 1st April 2022. * AM had contacted Leo Solomon’s daughter to pass on the condolences of members of SACRE.   ACTIONS   * Clerk to add constitution to next agenda. |
| 4 | Membership | The Chair advised that she would be stepping down from her role as Chair following the meeting as she no longer had capacity to fulfil the role and was very disappointed in the support from the LA for SACRE.  The Chair stated how supportive MW had been in his role as LA Link Officer, however this role was no longer within his remit.  The Chair noted that in her time as Chair, she had been supported by three different LA Link Officers and Wendy Jackson (WJ) would be the fourth.  The Chair had requested an urgent meeting with WJ.  SACRE was poorly funded and was unable to fulfil its statutory obligation. There was only one secondary school within the Local Authority area which was legally compliant, and the area had ranked bottom in the country in terms of the number of students studying RE at GCSE level.  There was an assurance that this data would be shared with Headteachers, but this had still not been carried out and school leaders were unaware of the data.  In terms of the Advisory job role, there had been significant work carried out on writing the profile and the Chair was under the impression that this was moving forward, but she had now been informed that it was likely to be April 2022 before anyone was appointed.  The Chair stated that this role was imperative to the SACRE agenda.  There were no Elected Members currently part of SACRE as Cllr Green and Cllr Rodgers were required to step away after the last election.  This had been raised with WJ, but it should have been addressed by the previous LA Link Officer when it was flagged up in July 2021.  The Chair advised that she would continue with SACRE but not as Chair and that she was upset and frustrated by the lack of support from the LA.  The Chair noted that the meeting was not quorate as there were no Elected Members present and that this had also been the case at the previous meeting.  GG stated that issues around communication had been a challenge in the LA for some time now, although people she worked with mostly sought to be supportive.  GG referred to the members and acknowledged that they were here because they had a commitment to children receiving quality Religious Education.  GG suggested that the board focused on what they could do without the need of LA involvement at this time and wait to see if the LA proposed another Chair.  GG advised that there was always good attendance for the support meetings for RE Leads which was having a positive impact.  **AM stated that lack of investment in young people had been historic within this LA and asked how the schools knew who to contact to obtain advice about SACRE**.  The Chair stated that schools usually contacted SACRE directly and were then signposted onto the relevant parties and this information was also shared at support meetings.  Some communities were difficult to reach, and this would be aided greatly by the appointment of the RE Advisor.  The Chair would collate an updated list on contacts.  **The Chair asked who would be eligible to stand for Chair following this meeting**.  GG advised that it needed to be a member from one of the 4 sets of core groups and the role would greatly benefit from someone with an interest, passion and understanding.  NN was keen to offer his support but highlighted the current challenges he was facing from a CofE point of view.  GG advised that she and KB had investigated some potential funding streams for SACRE with a view to accessing a small pot of funding to pay for something specific which could be commissioning a video to highlight the important things to children of faith communities.  This would alleviate the need to further burden faith leaders and would raise the profile of SACRE.  IG stated that this would be of great use to her to help make links with those students practicing and help bring the subject to life. This could be used within lessons to build on current content.  KB commented on the work conducted in her school and stated that it would be a useful tool to help children talk about their beliefs.  GG stated that it was not a unique thing, and this was something that other SACRE’s had done, and this would help break down a barrier as local people were not always aware of local faith communities unless they were already part of them.  **KB enquired whether future meetings could continue if they were not quorate, and no Chair was appointed**.  GG advised that meetings could still continue but no decisions could be made.  Members thanked the Chair for her hard work and commitment and were understanding of her reasons for stepping down as Chair.  **The Chair asked the Clerk if the discussions taken place in the meeting would be fed back to WJ and KB requested that it was made clear that the LA were not meeting their legal obligations in respect of SACRE**.  The Clerk assured members that she would feedback to WJ.  ACTION   * Chair to compile an updated contact list * GG and KB to meet to discuss options for accessing SACRE funding * Clerk to feedback to WJ on today’s discussions |
| 5 | Correspondence | There was nothing further to discuss. |
| 6 | Locally Agreed Syllabus | There was nothing further to discuss. |
| 7 | Supporting Local Schools | There was nothing further to discuss. |
| 8 | SACRE Funding | There was nothing further to discuss. |
| 9 | AOB | There was no other business to discuss. |
| **Next meeting** | | The next meeting would take place on Wednesday 02 February 2022 4.30pm (format TBC) |