

Minutes of the meeting of the

**Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)
at Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall on
Wednesday 6th February 2019, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

Present: Amanda Fitton (SACRE Adviser), Aga Cahn, Cllr Claire Richards, Tony Reynolds, Julia Ewans (Chair), Catherine Watts, Cllr Amanda Taylor, Virginia Barnes, Liz Bassett, Jag Srαι

Apologies: Cllr Samantha Hoy, Daniel Bennett, Dennis Johnson, Virginia Barnes, Robert Mackley, Becky Palmer, Ged McHale, Moira Middleton, Raj Shah
Dr Shirley Hall and Caroline Vinall.

In attendance

Laura Corcoran, SACRE Clerk
Shahina Ahmend, Prevent Officer
Hoi Yee NG, Prevent Officer

Absent:

Raymond Mitchell

1. Welcome and Introductions

Julia Ewans (Chair) opened the meeting at 1:35pm. All members introduced themselves and welcomed new member to committee D – Cllr Amanda Taylor. The meeting was quorate.

2. Apologies

The SACRE Clerk informed those present that apologies had been received from Dr Shirley Hall, Caroline Vinall, Cllr Samantha Hoy, Daniel Bennett, Dennis Johnson, Virginia Barnes, Robert Mackley, Becky Palmer, Ged McHale, Raj Shah and Moira Middleton.

All apologies were read out and accepted by the committee.

3. Appointment of Vice Chair

JE advised members of the role of Vice Chair of SACRE. Cllr Claire Richards was elected as Vice Chair of SACRE. The vote was unanimous.

4. Prevent Agenda

Shahina Ahmend and Hoi Yee NG, Prevent Officers from Cambridgeshire Police attended the meeting to deliver the following presentation to members:

- Prevent is part of the 4Ps: Pursue, Protect, Prepare, Prevent
- Prevent is about supporting and protecting the people and communities

- susceptible to radicalisation by redirecting them and not criminalising them.
- Prevent aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorists.
 - Encourage communities not to insight hate and to be aware of freedom.
 - We work with other organisations such as football clubs so that young people can ask questions
 - What are the threats we face? AQ/Daesh inspired or influenced groups, extreme right wing, Irish related terrorism, extreme left wing, animal rights.
 - Right wing – anti Islam narratives, including the so called counter jhad movement – strong focus on patriotism.
 - Extreme Right Wing – Pegida, Britain First, National Action
 - Domestic extremism – Animal liberation front, Antifa, Hunt Saboteurs
 - Islamist terrorism international - which groups do not currently have a UK footbring but which have arracted UK based individuals to join, travel overseas or provide financial support.
 - Islamist terrorism – Hezbollah, Daesh, Al Qaida
 - Kurdish groups and fighting Daesh
 - Islamist online magazines (Daesh, Rumiya, Inspire)
 - Al Shabab Terror attack – took pace this month , death toll 21
 - What makes people vulnerable to radicalisation? Feeling under threat, no social life, excessive use of internet, feelings of grievance and injustice
 - Warning signs – changes in behaviour, significant change in appearance, excessive time online.
 - Channel explainer – how to help identify young people at risk. The full video can be watched at www.LTAI.info
 - OR
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DoHgFs_1v1Y

In answer to a question SA advised that the majority of referrals relate to males however there are also some female referrals. We continue to work with other organisations to provide the relevant support.

If people are being supported in terms of an IP programme, do organisations try to counteract this?

JE asked about the number of people we are supporting at the moment and SA said there are about 15 live cases in this area.

Upon further discussion, members established that the Prevent Agenda has been in place since 2003.

TR to provide SA with Rugby contact to enable her to engage with them to enable them to expand on sports initiative.

Action Clerk to add prevent link onto SACRE / Cambs website.

5. Minutes of 2 October 2018 and matters arising not elsewhere on agenda

The minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed.

6 SACRE Membership / Vacancies Update

The Clerk took members through the constitution and advised of vacancies. AF advised that Caroline Vinall is in the process of sourcing further members. We have also received interest from a secondary school teacher in Soham who will be invited to the next meeting as an observer. In terms of the Buddhist vacancy we are following up with the Buddhist Centre.

Action - Clerk to invite

Action

It was agreed that Cllr Amanda Taylor would contact a further link regarding the Orthodox vacancy.

The chair strongly advised all members to allocate a back-up member should they be unable to attend.

AF asked for councillors' views on appealing to the wider public.

Action

It was agreed that AF would accompany Cllr Richards to the next Faith Group meeting. CR to action

It was agreed that future meeting dates would be set 18 months in advance; this will be actioned when the clerk meets with AF later on in the month.

AK gave details of some Muslim members in the community who she would consider approaching about joining SACRE.

Action

AK to follow up and advise clerk.

7 Correspondence

There was no further correspondence for discussion.

8 Hate-Crime – Reporting and Impact on the Community

CR gave details of the queries which had arisen at the recent Community Partnerships meeting to which she is a committee member. Has there been an increase in hate-crime incidents? Have all incidents been reported? Who might the point of contact be and what are members' views are this? A discussion followed. There is a hate-crime unit in Cambridge. AF said that she represents Peterborough in the anti-radicalisation funding and there has been much discussion on this topic. JS said that in his opinion each case should be treated in isolation. Members also agreed that sometimes it is difficult to prove hate crime and there should perhaps be guidance in place to clarify this. After some discussion it was agreed that there is a general feeling of 'not knowing the right thing to do' and as a result this is often simply not talked about.

CR to feed this back to the committee and seek further direction.

9 Faith Direct update

AF said that we hope to run an event for Year 9 and Year 10 students in Ely Cathedral during the Summer. The objective is to enrich GCSE RE results and we are hoping that we will be able to use the Cathedral free of charge. We hope to invite around 300 pupils from schools in the Fenland and East Cambridgeshire area.

Action - Clerk to send details once AF has finished arranging this with Carol Vinall.

AF welcomed feedback from members on their views of the proposed event. Members agreed for SACRE to support the event. It was agreed that there would be a 'questions

and answers' box on the day and that information / resources would be provided to those students unable to attend.

10 Westhill / NASACRE Awards 2019

JE advised that she had put together with AF and SH a preliminary application. The deadline is the end of March. The chair welcomed members' reviews on putting together an event with speakers for schools. LB said she felt that children would be more inspired by attending an external trip.

AF said that essentially we are trying to measure what has the biggest impact; whether this is a school visit or an external event- and gave some examples of events. Members agreed that that the board should consider carefully how they engage schools with this. A member suggested exploring the possibility of taking children further afield on a coach trip to another city. It was agreed that a way forward would be to train teachers on how to facilitate school visits.

11 SACRE Annual Report

AF said that she is working on the annual report and is awaiting GCSE and A level results for Peterborough schools.

Action Clerk to circulate once complete

12 Members' updates

CW thanked members for the wonderful carol service. AF said that members will be invited again next Christmas.

13 Forthcoming Training Events

AF advised that the RE assessment courses have been very popular and as a result are over-subscribed. We have therefore added an additional date for April.

Action Clerk to circulate flyer.

The RE Network meetings are also very popular and there are bookings from both Peterborough and Cambridgeshire schools.

14 AOB

AF said that as part of a project called Pathway to Religion, she is required to carry out a 3-minute interview with a young person from either Buddhist or another denomination. The theme is conforming Christianity.

Action - It was agreed that Cllr Richards would follow this up with a potential contact and report back to AF.

JE gave details of the breakdown of SACRE costs in the recent budget update. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 20th June at 4:30pm

The meeting closed at 16:00