

MINUTES OF HARINGEY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) 23 March 2006

Group A: Christian Denominations and other Faiths represented in Haringey:

Vacancy (Salvation Army FCFC), Vacancy (Diocese of Westminster (RC), Mr M. Ibrahim (Muslim Educational Trust), *Mr Alli (North London Islamic Cultural Society), *Sarah Joy Leviten (Board of Deputies of British Jews), Mr Barnabus Mishi (Greek Orthodox), Ms B Parsons (Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai's), Karuna Gita (North London Buddhist Centre), Mr K Ranganathan (Hindu (Shiva) Temple Trust), Jenny Stonhold (United Reformed Church), Rev R *Allaway (Baptist Churches), Vacancy (Quaker), Ms M Huntley (Methodist) Vacancy (Seventh Day Adventists), Peter Adeniyi (Pentecostal Churches).

Group B: Church of England:

*Mr E Griffith, Mrs J Jamieson, Mr G Mariner, Revd Canon A Dangerfield, Revd Dr Jonathan Trigg.

Group C: Professional Associations:

Ms N Parmar (NUT), *Mr N Bradley (NUT), Ms J Arrowsmith (NUT), *Aurelie Bivigou (NUT), Mr A Yarrow (SHA), *Bunmi Otubushin (NASUWT), Vacancy (NAHT).

Group D: Local Education Authority Group:

*Cllr Haley, Cllr Aitken, *Jennifer James, Livinius Emmanuel Onyearugbulem.

Co-opted Non-Voting Members:

Mr N Bacrac (British Humanist Association), *Mr P Dighton (Jehovah's Witness).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Apologies were received from the Chair; Jenny Stonhold so Mr Nick Bradley chaired this meeting.
- Apologies were also received from Ms N Parmar, Mr A Yarrow and Mr N Bacrac.

2. URGENT BUSINESS

Members were asked to complete the tabled forms asking them to supply phone numbers and email addresses as the database only had home addresses for some members.

Members were also asked to complete a tabled form asking for areas of discussion at the forthcoming NASACRE AGM which would be attended by the Chair, Jenny Stonhold.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING 15 December 2005

The minutes of the above meeting were agreed and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

Rev Allaway advised members that a Second draft of the Faith Directory had now been circulated to 124 churches. He agreed to send the link to the Clerk to SACRE for loading on the web pages.

4. UPDATE ON HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL EVENTS

Leon Joseph updated members on the events of the Holocaust Memorial week; members noted the Theme for 2006 had been; 'One Person can Make a Difference' and that it had covered many examples of inhumanity not just the Holocaust, and focused on the current problems faced by Refugees and Asylum Seekers. In summary; members were advised of the programme of events which had included speeches from the Mayor and Leader; a testimonial from the stepsister of Anne Frank, prayers from the Rev Nims Obunge, moving anecdotes and Violin playing from Rabbi Lister, the Haringey Youth Choir and children lighting candles and flag raising. Leon advised that 2 new flags had been purchased for this event.

The Film 'Hotel Rwanda' had been screened at Cineworld but Secondary School attendance had not been as high as would have been expected. Bunmi Otubushin advised members of the forthcoming screening of a film about Afgan Refugees in Haringey at the Park View Academy and would pass details on to the Clerk.

Leon also briefed members on the exhibition mounted for Holocaust Memorial Day; which he felt was a considerable improvement on last year and the screening of a video on 24 January from the Liberator of a concentration camp. Jennifer James agreed to discuss with Leon its suitability for showing in schools. Tribute was paid to Denise Chaplin's work on the web based educational resources which covered inhumanity through the ages.

Concern was raised about poor response from schools to the Hotel Rwanda showing and members questioned whether the information was reaching the subject departments. Members suggested that in future Heads of Departments be contacted about the educational events, rather than or as well as Head Teachers.

5. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Clerk advised members that Ms Sarah Joy Leviten had replaced Rabbi Lister and the Chair welcomed her to Haringey SACRE. Members noted that SACRE was currently carrying 4 vacancies; the Salvation Army, The Diocese of Westminster RC, Quaker and Seventh Day Adventists but the Clerk was actively pursuing replacements.

6. FEEDBACK FROM THE NASACRE CONFERENCE

The RE Advisor to SACRE (Denise Chaplin) took members through the form which the Chair had asked SACRE to complete in order to take a consensus of opinion to the AGM on 4 May. The Clerk noted the responses. There was some discussion about sections of the form and members noted that regional representation could be over concentrated in some parts of the country.

The Clerk would order extra copies of the Non Statutory National Frameworks for all members and although members were happy to adhere to the 8 level scales for RE; that felt that local context should also be considered.

The proposal to collate information from schools using the Self Evaluation Form produced by Culham College was discussed. Members were concerned about its effectiveness. Denise Chaplin agreed to bring an example of the Lewisham pilot of Heads of Subject using the form following which feedback members could discuss the Culham RE-online service more meaningfully at the next meeting, prior to making a firm commitment. Haringey expressed their thanks to Lewisham and for taking a lead on this pilot.

Finally, Denise took members through page 4 of the NASACRE Newsletter; the article which she had written but explained to members that she had missed a day of the NASACRE conference in December as she had been recovering from an operation.

7. THE BISHOP OF PORTSMOUTH'S PREFACE TO EXCELLENCE AND DISTINCTIVENESS.

SACRE were asked to consider the implications of this for the work of an Agreed Syllabus Conference. There was a discussion and concern from some members' interpretation that the Bishop was not just referring to Church of England Schools and was suggesting a possible veto on any schools not complying with the National Framework.

Eddie Griffith offered to speak to his Church of England colleagues about this and offered to write to the Bishop setting out the concerns of SACRE raised at the meeting.

Members noted that the Excellence and Distinctiveness Report was very useful and was now available on the National Society's website.

8. FEEDBACK FROM THE LONDON SACRE'S MEETING ON 20 MARCH (see item 13)

9. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS – Ofsted Reports

Members noted that these reports had been in circulation for a while and that there would be no further Ofsted reports after this year. It had been particularly critical of school managers and leadership. In answer to questions about using the Ofsted report headings when compiling the next Annual report, Denise Chaplin advised that we were obligated to comply with QCA guidelines in how the report is set out as QCA analyse all Annual reports across the country.

10. OFSTED RACE EQUALITY PAPER

There was some discussion on schools' experience in monitoring and dealing with racial discrimination and members noted that the Council had a statutory responsibility for monitoring discriminatory incidents; facilitated through the Ethnic Minority Achievement Team and Leon Joseph, the School Links Officer. Members discussed the importance of raising community awareness and developing strategies for tackling bullying in particular.

11. ISLAM EXPO EXHIBITION – 6-9 July 2006

Denise Chaplin had been in touch with the organisers and advised that the packs would be ready to send out the following week. SACRE agreed to send this information centrally to RE subject leaders in primary and secondary schools with a covering letter to encourage schools to attend. Members were generally very much in favour of this and the teachers present were interested in taking school groups.

12. APPOINTMENT FOR A SACRE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE HARINGEY PARENTAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT STRATEGIC STEERING GROUP

The Deputy Chair volunteered to be the SACRE representative to the Haringey Parental and Community Involvement Strategic Steering Group and this was agreed by the members present.

13. INFORMATION EXCHANGE BETWEEN SACREs

Denise Chaplin explained this proposal from Barnet SACRE and reported back to members on the meeting she had attended with the Chair on 20 March. They felt that future attendance would only be necessary on a 'need to know' basis for vital information.

The Chair of Brent SACRE commented on some difficulties when contacting Council switchboards in that the operators did not know who the members of staff supporting SACRE were. The Clerk would check that staff on the Haringey switchboard were aware.

14. HARINGEY AGREED SYLLABUS SURVEY

Denise Chaplin provided an analysis and feedback on the above survey. In summary, 6 primary, 2 infant and 5 secondary schools had responded. The responses were mixed so members suggested that any further surveys should prompt a more strategic response. The primary schools in general had asked for more support and guidance and the secondary schools had asked for lesson plans and units of work. Members suggested some further assistance via surgeries and review sessions but noted that all of these carried budgetary implications and members noted that Waltham Forest had taken 2 years to complete Key Stages 1 & 2 of its revised syllabus. Denise agreed to bring an action plan back to the next meeting.

15 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

Rev Allaway warned members of an alleged 'Christian Council of Britain' web site which is in fact a front for the British National Party.

Rev Allaway also advised members of the publication of the new Forty Days Prayer Guide and had brought 2 copies to the meeting. Denise Chaplin advised that various Christian Resource Groups had expressed an interest and offered to pass their details onto Rev Allaway.

Councillor Haley asked if a list of the statutory requirements and obligations on SACRE could be provided at the next meeting in order that a budget and match funding could be identified. Denise Chaplin and Jennifer James agreed to provide this information

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Provisionally 21 June 2006, but subject to confirmation of the Council's Municipal Diary for 2006/07. As this was Refugee Week members suggested that the next meeting should take place at Bruce Castle which would be holding an exhibition and members noted the PDC is also running events on this theme. The Clerk would investigate use of a meeting room at the Castle.

Signed

CHAIR OF SACRE

DATE