

## Minutes

### HILLINGDON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

21 March 2012

Meeting held at Committee Room 5 - Civic Centre,  
High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW



HILLINGDON  
LONDON

	<p><b>Committee Members Present:</b> Duncan Struthers (Chairman) Mike Bull Carol Melvin David Routledge Avtar Sandhu Appleby Kamal Persaud Jean Nunney</p> <p><b>Also Present:</b> Eric Blaire, Advisor</p> <p><b>LBH Officers Present:</b> Nadia Williams, Democratic Services</p>	
49.	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> (<i>Agenda Item 1</i>)</p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from Mike Gattleson, Cllr Keith Burrows, Alison Fothergill, Kevin Guest, Angela Lount, Daniel Norris, Jean Nunnery, Jasvir Singh Rayat, Dharmini Shah, Heather Steady and Hilary Stone.</p>	<b>Action by</b>
50.	<p><b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2012</b> (<i>Agenda Item 2</i>)</p> <p>The minutes of meeting held on 9 November 2011 were noted as the meeting was not quorate. These would be agreed at the next SACRE meeting, subject to it being quorate.</p>	<b>Action by</b>
51.	<p><b>REVISED HASACRE CONSTITUTION - UPDATE</b> (<i>Agenda Item 3</i>)</p> <p>It was confirmed that the revised Agreed HSACRE Constitution had been reported to Cllr David Simmonds, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services for approval.</p>	<b>Action by</b>
52.	<p><b>FUTURE HASACRE CHAIRMAN AND ADVISER</b> (<i>Agenda Item 4</i>)</p> <p>The Chairman announced that he would be standing down as Chairman of HSACRE in December 2012. He suggested that election of the Chairman for 2012/2013 should be deferred to the meeting on 7 November 2012, to allow for expressions of interest of the position to</p>	<b>Action by</b>  Duncan Struthers Eric Blaire

	<p>be put forward.</p> <p>It was also announced that Eric Blaire, Advisor to HSACRE would be standing down at the end of the year.</p>	
53.	<p><b>FUTURE FUNDING IN THE FUTURE FOR HASACRE</b> (<i>Agenda Item 5</i>)</p> <p>The meeting noted that a bid for £5,000 had been submitted to continue the funding of HSACRE. An update of the outcome would be provided at the next meeting.</p>	<p><b>Action by</b></p> <p>Eric Blaire</p>
54.	<p><b>RAMADAN</b> (<i>Agenda Item 6</i>)</p> <p>Eric Blaire advised that the last day of the Summer Term would be the start of Ramadan. Headteachers and Exam Boards would be notified of the implications this would have on schools.</p> <p>During discussions it was noted that in order for HSACRE to be proactive in ensuring that schools were supported well during this period, the issue would be discussed with other Boroughs such as Newham, which had schools with a high proportion of pupils who celebrated Ramandan.</p>	<p><b>Action by</b></p> <p>Eric Blaire</p>
55.	<p><b>THE SACRE RE TOOL: REPORTING AND EVALUATION TOOL (ATTACHED)</b> (<i>Agenda Item 7</i>)</p> <p>Eric Blaire advised that the SACRE Reporting and Evaluation Toolkit was a document that would help HSACRE in supporting the Local Authority with regard to providing high quality RE and collective worship in schools. The toolkit would also help HSCARE to evaluate its role and to consider its impact on pupils' educational experience and learning.</p> <p>It was suggested that a workshop or a special meeting should be set up to look at the key areas for discussion in greater detail.</p> <p>The meeting highlighted that in view of the fact that many schools in Hillingdon had opted for Academy status and were therefore out of the control of the Local Authority, it would be prudent to establish which of the schools of Academy status would continue to follow the Agreed Syllabus. Any schools that did not wish to continue to use the Agreed Syllabus should then be asked whether they would wish for HSACRE to be involved in helping them to development their Agreed Syllabus.</p> <p>The meeting acknowledged that funding may be required to pursue this matter and the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services should be approached to provide funding to support this.</p>	<p><b>Action by</b></p> <p>Duncan Struthers Eric Blaire</p>
56.	<p><b>HEADS OF RE MEETING , ASSESSMENT, EXAM AWARDS AND OFQUAL</b> (<i>Agenda Item 8</i>)</p> <p>Eric Blaire reported that through HSACRE, the Heads of RE meetings were now established and self generating.</p>	<p><b>Action by</b></p> <p>Duncan Struthers</p>

	<p>It was noted that one of the issues raised at these meetings, was the fact that schools were no longer able to include half GCSE courses as part of their results. To this end therefore, schools were now being encouraged to support extra time (such as lunch times and after school) to make up the time in order to enable pupils to complete the half subject as a whole in order to attain a full qualification.</p> <p>The Chairman added that Heads of RE questioned whether there were points allocated to GCSE subjects which could be submitted by pupils when applying for colleges. It was noted however, that although the National Association of SACRE where of the view that half GCSE in RE could be accepted by colleges, this decision was entirely up to the individual colleges concerned.</p> <p>It was suggested that research should be undertaken to establish whether colleges in Hillingdon (and colleges in neighbouring boroughs) accepted RE as half a subject.</p>	Eric Blaire
57.	<p><b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI) 3501 - UPDATE</b> (<i>Agenda Item 9</i>)</p> <p>The meeting was advised that a Freedom of Information request (3501) on the act of worship in Hillingdon had been recently made by the Mail on Sunday. All emails and letters relating to this issue were collated and sent to the Council's Data Protection &amp; Freedom of Information Officer who then responded to the request.</p> <p>It was requested that a copy of the reply should be circulated to HSACRE members for information.</p>	<p><b>Action by</b></p> <p>Eric Blaire</p>
58.	<p><b>YOUTH ON RELIGION (YOR) - UPDATE</b> (<i>Agenda Item 10</i>)</p> <p>Eric Blaire circulated copies of the HSACRE Response to Brunel University's Youth on Religion (YOR) project. The meeting was informed that Alison Fothergill had collected data from the schools that had participated in the university programme to collate the responses. Over 2000 pupils from years 8, 10 and 12 out of 12 secondary schools in the Borough had taken part in the programme.</p> <p>From the results shown, it was highlighted that 60% of pupils who took part in the programme had indicated that they either prayed or mediated and that 50% had learned about other faiths through activities at school or college.</p> <p>A member requested that the breakdown of the percentage of the make of the various faiths of the children that took part in this cohort should also be shown in the HSACRE response to the Brunel YOR Project.</p> <p>It was suggested that the figures of the number of children that had been questioned should also be included.</p> <p>The Chairman add that he had been in discussion with Professor</p>	<p><b>Action by</b></p> <p>Duncan Struthers Eric Blaire Alison Forthergill</p>

	<p>Madge (who had been involved in the project at Brunel University) to produce a DVD recording talks with students in schools about their faiths. Additional funding had been sourced through the University for this Project and it was noted that the first meeting with students was due to begin on Friday 30 March 2012. The Chairman stated that the completed DVD would be circulated to schools in the Borough.</p> <p>Those present at meeting welcome the HSACRE Response and suggested that once it had been finalised, it should be advertised in the Hillingdon People, the Council's free Magazine that was circulated to all residents in the Borough.</p>	
59.	<p><b>AGREE AN EXTERNAL VENUE TO HOLD THE MEETING ON ONE OF THE DATES LISTED DATES BELOW:</b> <i>(Agenda Item 11)</i></p> <p>It was indicated that the next meeting should be held at Holly Trinity C of E School, Rickmansworth Road, Northwood. To be confirmed by Daniel Norris, Headteacher.</p>	<p><b>Action by</b></p> <p>Nadia Williams</p>
60.	<p><b>INFORMATION ITEMS ATTACHED:</b> <i>(Agenda Item 12)</i></p> <p>The meeting noted the attached information.</p>	<p><b>Action by</b></p>
61.	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b> <i>(Agenda Item 13)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was reported that the Government was setting an all party Parliamentary group on interfaith, which would be chaired by Stephen Lloyd, MP.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action by</b></p> <p>Duncan Struthers</p>
<p>The meeting, which commenced at 7.00 pm, closed at 8.50 pm.</p>		

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Nadia Williams on 01895 277655. Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.