

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
SACRE COMMITTEE
8 FEBRUARY 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the SACRE Committee of Flintshire County Council held virtually on the 8 February 2023

IN ATTENDANCE:

Elected Members: Councillors Dave Mackie (DM); Andrew Parkhurst (AP); Paul Cunningham (PC); Marion Bateman (MB); Debbie Owen (DO)

Church in Wales Representatives (St Asaph Diocese): Jennie Downes (JD); Marina Parsons (MP), Ysgol Trelawynd VA School

Presbyterian Church of Wales representative: Rev Huw Powell Davies

Secondary school representative: Catherine McCormack (CM), Headteacher St Richard Gwyn RC High School, Flint

Special School representative: Julian Lewis, Ysgol Pen Coch

Primary Heads representative: Anna Stephens, St John the Baptist VA School, Pentrobin

Education Representatives: Vicky Barlow (VB), Senior Manager School Improvement; Jane Borthwick, Senior Learning Adviser

Also, in attendance: Kim Brookes (KB), Senior Manager, Education & Youth (Clerk); Nicola Gittins (NG) Democratic Services Clerk;

NG confirmed meeting being recorded.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR 2022-23

KB welcomed colleagues to the meeting. It was confirmed that the numbers present meant that the meeting was quorate and invited nominations for appointment of Chair. Cllr MB was nominated and accepted as Chair.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE- CHAIR FOR 2022-23.

KB advised election of Vice Chair be considered in a rotating pattern from the representative group and called for nominations in turn from the Church Representatives. Following discussion, the meeting agreed to the proposal of Mr Julian Lewis as Vice Chair to the Committee.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

John Morgan, St. Anthony RC school; Councillors Adele Davies-Cooke and Roz Mansell; Amira Mattar Westwood CP School, Buckley; Claire Homard Chief Officer; Robert Hughes, Coleg Cambria

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – CODE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONDUCT

None declared

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD 9 FEBRUARY 2022 AND 24 NOVEMBER 2022

In response to Cllr AP, VB advised that the meeting was receiving the minutes of the meetings of 9 February and 24 November 2022 as the May meeting had been cancelled pending confirmation of Elected members and the November meeting was not quorate. The minutes could not be submitted for approval until this meeting.

Agreed: minutes accepted as a true record.

6. ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

VB presented the detailed draft Annual Report on the work of SACRE during the last year. The meeting accepted the report and unanimously approved. Chair thanked VB on behalf of the meeting for the work that had gone into producing the report.

7. ANALYSIS OF ESTYN INSPECTION REPORTS FOR AUTUMN TERM 2022

VB referred to the detailed report circulated with the agenda. VB informed new members of the Committee of our practice to look at last term's Estyn reports on RVE and Collective Worship.

VB pleased to note that there were no recommendations on statutory practices for those schools inspected and that RVE is well positioned to enable pupils to understand their local and wider community.

Action: VB to share examples in future reports.

Cllr PC pleased to see examples of diversity expressed in schools and was encouraged by school celebrations through collective worship. VB endorsed the view that a real strength of our schools is how they embrace collective worship.

The committee acknowledged the report and asked that schools be thanked for their hard work on behalf of SACRE.

Action: VB to acknowledge

8. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL

KB informed the meeting that as the new curriculum is not yet fully implemented, Wales Government have advised Authorities that whilst the existing SACRE and future Standing Advisory Council for RVE (SAC for RVE) are composed differently, both committees will need to co-exist during the legacy years on the old curriculum to 2025. Authorities are to determine their own arrangements which can provide for membership of each committee to be the same. During the time to 2025, we will need to decide on future membership of the SAC for RVE to ensure representatives the relevant traditions of our area are appropriately reflected. The Committee was asked to note that the local authority must take all reasonable steps to secure that the membership of the group is broadly proportionate to the strength of each religion, denomination, or conviction in its local area.

Agreed: Committee agreed the recommendation that the membership of SACRE /SAC for RVE remain the same to 2025.

Action: Draft terms of reference to be considered at future meeting

9. CORRESPONDENCE

VB informed the meeting of letter received from WASACRE asking for support from authorities for their working group on the development and implementation of the agreed syllabus. Committee welcomed the approach.

Action: VB to circulate the letter and recommended participation from Flintshire

WASACRE Spring Meeting: meeting was informed that 4 representatives from each authority may attend the Spring Conference online, details to follow

VB also pleased to provide a nomination had been received from the Presbyterian Church for a second nominee

10. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME:

Meeting agreed to proposals from VB to receive two presentations at future meetings: Amira Mattar on her work in implementing the new Curriculum at Westwood schools and Lyn Oakes on how heads of RE in secondary sector are preparing for the new curriculum.

In response to Cllr DO as a new member of the Committee, agreed that VB organise a workshop for new /all members.

Action: VB to send Cllr DO copy of the WASCRE guide.

11. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date of next meeting, 4pm on Wednesday 7 June 2023

Action: JD to consider possibility of hosting future meeting at a Church in Wales school

Meeting ended 16.58pm