

SACRE Briefing Paper

10th March 2015

SACRE members are requested to give their consideration to the following two proposals.

Proposal 1: The SACRE meeting agenda should include an agenda item titled 'SACRE representative feedback'.

Background information: Swindon SACRE currently has a nominated representative on Swindon Borough Council's Health, Adult and Children Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HACS). This committee replaced what was known as the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September 2014.

Currently, there is no mechanism within the SACRE agenda for representative feedback, irrespective of the role undertaken by the representative.

Proposal 2: Swindon SACRE supports Swindon Youth Forum's pro-active stance in encouraging all Swindon secondary schools to ensure their curriculum reflects a 'Curriculum for Life'.

Background information: Prompting this proposal is the HACS Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting which took place on the 12th November 2014. One agenda item was entitled 'Progress Update of the Youth Forum' including a presentation by the two newly elected Swindon Members of the Youth Parliament - Ellie James (Lydiard Park) and Wilfred Steenbergen (Kingsdown).

One specific element of the agenda outlines the current work of the Youth Forum (para. 4.1.7), including a specific focus in collaboration with the United Kingdom Youth Parliament. It reads:

Curriculum for Life

As part of the Manifesto for the United Kingdom Youth Parliament, thousands of young people across the UK voted for a 'Curriculum to Prepare us for Life' within schools. This includes a better political, financial and sex and relationship education.

From this, the Members of Youth Parliament and Swindon Youth Forum would like to deliver a project called 'Review your School'. It will question what appropriate 'life skills' young people feel they need in preparation for leaving education, including how they want to learn as well as a review of what they are currently learning and whether they feel it is preparing them for life. A recent survey from the sexual health charity Brooke said 78% of young people say they have never been consulted about what they learn in PSHE and

Citizenship. The question we would like to ask Head Teachers is 'Do you have a Curriculum for Life in YOUR school'?

We aim to send out a questionnaire aimed at the teaching staff responsible for the PSHE and Citizenship provision of each school. The second part of the consultation focuses on the students; we will complete a focus group session, preferably of student council members. The focus group session would cover the structure of lessons, who teaches lessons, topics covered and pupil involvement and most importantly where the young people believe improvements need to be made, if any. With this information we would hope to organise a meeting with a Head Teacher or Governor to make sure that a Curriculum to prepare us for Life IS being provided, and offer 'suggestions' based on the findings. We would also use this opportunity to highlight areas of good practice.

Attendance at the next SASH (Swindon Association of Secondary Head Teachers) meeting has been requested, to speak to Head Teachers to ensure everyone is happy to engage in the project.

Swindon SACRE is requested to consider its support of the above action being taken by the Swindon Youth Forum.

Paul Sunners

NAHT representative Swindon SACRE