

Membership Update

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 1 December 2009

Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services / SACRE Advisor

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To ask the SACRE to note the Membership update and approve the appointment of Mr Mark Cawte as a deputy representative to Group D (Other Faiths).

Recommendation

- To note the Membership update.
- That the SACRE endorse the appointment of Mr Mark Cawte as a joint deputy member to Mrs Helen Hancox (United Reformed Church) and Mrs Wendy Tucker (Methodist Church) on Group D (Other Faiths).
- That the training being made available to new members of Group D (Other Faiths) by the NASACRE be noted, and any members attending be invited to report back to a future meeting to share their experiences and learning with other members of the SACRE.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 The Council appoints the membership of SACRE every four years, but the SACRE approves changes to membership mid term. The Council formally renewed the Membership of the SACRE in September 2007. All appointments made by the SACRE in the interim run until September 2011, the date of the next formal review.

2. Detail

- 2.1 The SACRE is currently holding two vacancies on Group D (Other Faiths) for a Baptist representative and a Catholic Representative. The Free Churches' Group, Churches Together In England, are currently in the process of seeking suitable representatives on behalf of the SACRE, and nominees when received will be reported back to a future meeting. In addition, the SACRE has received a nomination for Mr Mark Cawte, who is the Community Worker and Local Preacher for Highworth United Reformed and Methodist Church in the Swindon and Marlborough area, to be appointed as a deputy representative to the current United Reformed Church and Methodist Church representatives on the SACRE. The SACRE is requested to confirm this appointment.

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NASACRE Training

- 2.2 The NASACRE are currently running a recruitment and training programme, funded by the Department for Children, School and Families (DCSF) and Curriculum Cohesion Unit to build SACRE capacity. This is intended to initially to fill vacancies on the Other Faiths Group. Our SACRE is part of the south regions benefiting in 2009/10. Therefore, Members our SACRE who have joined in the last few months to the Other Faiths Group (Group D) have been invited to attend training by the NASACRE.
- 2.3 The training will comprise two full days, one focused on RE and one on collective worship. In between the training days, delegates will be invited to attend a local SACRE meeting of their choice, and make an accompanied visit to a school to see an RE Lesson. It is suggested that any SACRE members attending this training be invited to report back on key areas of learning and experience at a future meeting of the Swindon SACRE.

Alternative Options

- None.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- This report has no specific legal or human rights implications. The legal requirements for appointment of representatives is set out in the SACRE Constitution (appended to Item 1 on this agenda).

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)

- The work of the SACRE contributes to the Council's aims to improve the opportunities for children and young people.

Consultees

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.
- Director of Schools and Learning
- Principal Advisor (School Improvement)

Background Papers and Appendices

- None

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Sarah Lawrence on 01793 463603, Email slawrence@swindon.gov.uk.