

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM
FOREST STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)**

**HELD AT WALTHAM FOREST TOWN HALL
ON TUESDAY 28TH APRIL 2016 AT 5.15PM**

Present: Ted Cooke	Chair/Member
Peter Dawe	Member
Femi Cole-Njie	Member
Mike Stygal	Member
Keith Pilling	Member
Neil Walsh	Member
Hilda Jackson	Member
Kastriot Berberi	Member
Shameem Highfield	Member
Ruith Kaufman	Member
Irfan Akhtar	
Jena Musa – Item 3	
Connie Grant	Clerk

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

- 1.1. All members present were welcomed to the meeting and the Chair thanked them for attending. All present at the meeting introduced themselves.
- 1.2. We noted that the meeting was quorate.
- 1.3. Apologies received from Ann Bard, Paul Braham, Mo Elhossainy, Tara Khare and Richard Sweden.

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on the 22nd March 2016

- 2.1. The minutes were agreed with the following amendments;
 - Page 1 (1.3.) – ‘Shameem’ is the correct spelling and not ‘Shammeen’.
Keith ‘Pilling’ is the correct spelling and not ‘Piling’
Mo Elhossainy was an observer and not a member.
Page 2 (4.1) point 3 -3rd para should read ‘Quality of Provision’ and not ‘revision’ as stated
Page 3 (5.1) - delete 7th July meeting and insert full stop after ‘SACRE Group’.
Page 5 - Dates of Future Meetings should be item 10 and not 6 as documented.

2.2. Matters Arising

- Page 2 - Prevent agenda – Jena Musa will present this item on the agenda.
- Page 2 – Annual report – the Chair has discussed this with Denise who sent several documents via e-mail exchange over the future of SACRE. There are no plans in the Education White paper for legal arrangements for SACREs to change. SACRE will still have responsibility to communicate with Academies in assisting them with the RE curriculum. The is keen for SACRES be retained. SACRES will be required to work with schools in preparing the agreed syllabus. The Chair added that this is positive news for SACRES.
- The Chair reported that he met and had a discussion with Denise over the weekend and proposed that SACRE members meet up for a meal with Denise. He suggested week beginning 20th June. He said Denise is happy to travel to Waltham Forest for the meal. Denise has also volunteered to set aside a half day to prepare a paper on issues that need to be addressed relating to KS3, 4 & 5. The Chair will discuss funding with Rosalind.
- The Chair reported that an email had been sent to NASACRE from the Secretary of State indicating that the Local Authority will support SACRES when all schools converted to Academies. SACRES' role on working with Academies on the Agreed Syllabus will continue.

3. Prevent Agenda and how this is managed in Waltham Forest Schools

3.1. We welcomed Jena Musa to the meeting who updated SACRE on the Prevent Agenda. Jena tabled a paper entitled Prevent: Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation. Jena said this was a contentious agenda since its launch. However the agenda has now been reformed. The slides focussed on the case management of the Prevent agenda. Prevent is part of the governments contest strategy. The model outlines the 4 'P's associated with the agenda. These were Prepare, Protect, Pursue and Prevent. The Local Authority is involved in the 'Prevent' strand of the agenda. Any concerns regarding radicalisation by schools will be referred to Prevent.

The aims of the Prevent Strategy are;

- challenge extremist narratives/ideology
- support those vulnerable to radicalisation
- Support vulnerable

Prevent work with schools and colleges around the aims of the strategy and it was recognised that social media was a challenge. The strategy works to try and stop people getting drawn into extremism, terrorism and islamic extremists. It looks at people's vulnerability across the spectrum. People are normally referred through the safeguarding remit. All schools and colleges have a legal requirement to understand the risk posed to their institution and some schools have requested training and support around radicalisation. Schools are also aware that this issue need to be embedded in the wider framework of their school policies. One challenge for prevent

is to ensure they are receiving the correct referral as there has been an increase in referrals that are not always appropriate. There is a multi-agency assessment process where different agencies worked together including mental health, housing, education, police and other providers. Another concern expressed around Challenge is that some communities are concerned about making referrals as this may be blown out of proportion.

The MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) screening process take on any safeguarding referrals and acts as the single front door to the Council. The process starts with a form that is completed resulting from a request for support or help. Depending on the severity of referrals, they are normally signposted to a service or put through to Prevent following assessment. It was noted that the types of referral received attributed to young children and there had been a significant increase in referrals within the last 6 months. Referrals relating to children involved assessment of their emotional, verbal and physical behaviour.. A checklist of signs to look for was outlined in the tabled paper setting out examples on behaviour.

London Councils have put together indicators for guidance to organisations and parents as it was recognised how vulnerable young people are in relation to radicalisation. The initial assessment is measured against indicators to establish whether there should be referrals.

In relation to Safeguarding and Signposting the following three indicators need to be checked before making a decision on referral;

- Notice – Who notices? What do they notice?
- Check – Who is it checked with? Why the need to check?
- Share – Who is the information shared with? Why the need to share?

The contact information for the MASH Team is outlined on the tabled paper.

Questioning that arose from the presentation produced the following information;

- Although the age groups of children referred were normally of those in Years 7 – 9 in secondary schools. However, there has been an increase in referrals for primary age children.
- Most incidents reported related to Islamist ideology; however the numbers were still relatively small.
- These types of referrals were not unique to this borough.
- There is mistrust towards Authorities which prevented some communities from making referrals.
- In response to potential false accusation by children the Group was informed that these were unlikely to be taken forward due to the first stage of assessment of the MASH screening. The whole process is to filter out information to establish if credible. The MASH checking process normally go through issues such as behaviour and parents are normally involved checks on school attendance and GPs,

- Prevent looks at whether vulnerability is attributed to behaviour and normally involve family therapy and issues such as whether CAMHS support is required.
- Intervention can last about 2 or 3 weeks or in some cases up to 3 or 4 months. This depends on the vulnerability the young person is exhibiting.
- There has been two interventions relating to radicalisation to date. There had also been a few interventions relating to the far right. The main concern is around how people are likely to act as a result of their views. This is why assessment is needed before considering a referral.
- Within the Muslim community Waltham Forest the Prevent agenda has opened up a debate on how Prevent communicates with communities.
- Prevent cases cannot be openly discussed due to the sensitivity and confidential nature of the information.
- KS3, 4 and 5 are looking at including extremism into some aspects of the curriculum. It would be suggested that primary school children should also be lightly taught about issues that explore extremism. It was recognised that religion can become a place where children may choose to engage with as a result of social and economic influences.
- There is space in the Agreed Syllabus to explore issues such as bullying, which could make a young person susceptible to extremism.
- There is a need to start thinking about 6th forms and how this issue can be incorporated in their syllabus as students in 6th forms were a rebellious age where they begin to question issues such as religion.
- SACRE has worked hard to get the Islamic element of the syllabus correct making it easier for a teacher to grasp, regardless of whether they were Muslims. KS3,4 and 5 need to do more work on the curriculum to try to and ensure the Muslim community were happy with it.
- Forbidden views can be an issue for children and it is crucial that to ensure that their views are listened to.

Jena informed SACRE that a Quality Assurance Group is in the process of being established and part of its remit was around likes and values and global issues. The Group will meet 4 to 5 times a year. Jena invited SACRE members to be involved in these meetings.

The Chair thanked Jena for attending and delivering the presentation. He said there are a few people on SACRE who will be interested in attending the Quality Assurance Group. Jena will inform SACRE when the group is established.

4. Annual Report 2014/15

4.1. The Chair reported that he will encourage Rosalind to undertake some more work on this.

Action: The Chair will draft a paper and forward to Peter to check.

5. Agreed Syllabus Launch

5.1. The Chair reported that he had not been able to secure a speaker for the Launch yet but he will have a discussion with Rosalind about it. He asked SACRE members to consider whether there were any potential speakers that may be suitable.

5.2. Schools will be asked to be involved in the revised KS2. The budget for this will be discussed with Rosalind. All Members of the Council will be invited to the launch. Denise and anyone who has had input will also be invited. William Morris has been booked for the 7th July 2016 for a 5.00pm to 5.30pm start.

Action: The Chair will ask Rosalind to speak to Winns Primary School if their car park can be used on the evening of the launch. The Chair will e-mail SACRE members with more information. It was highlighted that Richard Sweden and Ruth Kaufman were left off the e-mail distribution and this will be rectified

6. Places of Worship Document

6.1. The Chair has spoken to Mo and Steve McDonald who are happy to compile a list of all places of worship. The Chair will communicate with SACRE about potential churches for schools to visit. Potential venues need to have large spaces available. Paul mentioned that the Synagogue Group would welcome a school visit.

Action: The updated list of places of worship will be distributed to SACRE members.

7. KS_{3,4} & 5 Syllabus

7.1. The Chair reported that there is a need to communicate with secondary schools to establish their requirements of SACRE. He proposed re-writing the statutory guidance. The non-statutory guidance would remain the same. He suggested that same format be used in terms of the layout. He said discussion was needed around what schools were expected to do to ensure a cohesive approach and the July launch will be a great opportunity to undertake dialogue with representatives of secondary schools. There is also a need to establish how secondary schools structured themselves as it is recognised that there are different patterns and models and how some of the 'all through' schools were using these models. It was mentioned that SACRE has responsibility for 6th forms but not for KS5. One example is that Lammas School has ethics and philosophy included in their curriculum. Children in apprenticeships up to the age of 18 need to be looked into and included. The focus is about how SACRE can assist schools.

Action: The Chair will provide an update to SACRE members shortly.

8. Any Other Business

8.1. NASSACRE AGM – scheduled for 18th May in London this year. The Chair said it is customary for SACRE to send one or two representatives to the AGM. NASACRE AGMs were normally interesting with break out workshops in the afternoon. They also have some good key note speakers at their event. Mike volunteered to attend.

Action: If anyone else is interested in attending they should inform the Chair. The Chair will communicate with Rosalind around resources for the NASSACRE

AGM. He will ask Donna to despatch the information on the NASSACRE AGM to all via e-mail.

8.2. Kastriot reported that an event taking place around building community bridges and religious tolerance on the 20th May at 7.00pm. He invited SACRE members to attend.

8.3. Agreed Syllabus for KS1 &2 – Add-ons has been agreed for non-religious issues included in the syllabus and there is need to ensure this element did not get lost.

Action: The Chair will communicate with Rosalind around resources for this.

8.4. Irfan joined the meeting at this stage and said he would have liked to be present when the Prevent item was discussed. He said in relation to Prevent a national conference had taken place around community response to Prevent. Since the introduction of the Prevent Agenda he has seen discrimination. He said the NUT had voted against this agenda prior to its establishment. The government has never engaged with the Muslim community on the Agenda and as a result since its introduction people has been marginalised and children has been reluctant and feel uncomfortable talking to teacher. He has experienced Channel taking referrals on children without their parents being informed. Some referrals have even been passed on to MI5. The government is not consulting Muslims which he felt is counter-productive. When the Prevent Agenda was launched the government were targeting people for signs of radicalisation for the smallest things. He recognised that they had improved a little on how people are now treated. He said work with schools and service providers on sensitive issues relating to the Muslim community had been carried out. In conclusion he said it was difficult to trust Local Authorities as the Prevent Agenda was a statutory initiative they had to implement and passed down from central government. Shameem said she is happy to attend any conferences relating to this issue. The Chair thanked Irfan for attending.

8.5. Start times of SACRE meetings – the Chair stated that although 5.15pm is suitable for SACRE members, he suggested having a few of the meetings later to accommodate Irfan.

9. Dates of Future Meetings and Agenda Items

9.1.

	Time	Venue
Summer Term 2016		
Thursday 14 th July 2016	5.15pm	WF Town Hall
Autumn 2016		
Tuesday 18 th October 2016	5.15pm	WF Town Hall
Thursday 17 th November 2016	5.15pm	WF Town Hall
Spring 2017		
Thursday 26 th January 2017	5.15pm	WF Town Hall
Thursday 23 rd March 2017	5.15pm	WF Town Hall

The meeting closed at 7.20pm