

# East Sussex SACRE

## Notes of the meeting

**Date:** Wednesday 6 March 2019

**Venue:** Committee Room, County Hall

**Chairman:** Councillor Roy Galley

**Clerk:** Julie Stevens

**Present:** Cllr Roy Galley, Mr Peter White, Cllr Trevor Webb, Cllr Philip Daniel, Cllr Colin Belsey, Cllr Richard Stogdon, Mrs Rosemary Roberts, Ms Elizabeth Coleman, Dr Mark Bishop, Mr Barry Blakelock, Mr Peter Hall, Ms Claire Ramalli, Mr Paul Oxborrow

**Also present:** Lilian Weatherley (LW), Carrie Beech (CB), Catherine Dooley (CD) (LA Advisor), Julie Stevens (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Dr Brenda Vance, Dr Norman Williamson, Mrs Pamela Hartog, Dr Tariq Rajbee, Mrs Sarah Feist, Mrs Mandy Watson, Mrs Laura Cooper, Ms Kayleigh Lambert

Item	Title	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	
<b>1.1</b>	Cllr Galley welcomed everyone present at the meeting and introductions were made around the table. A special welcome was given to new members Claire Ramalli and Paul Oxborrow.	
<b>1.2</b>	Apologies were noted by the Clerk.	
<b>2</b>	<b>AGM</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Election of Chair</b> Cllr Galley left the meeting. Catherine Dooley asked for nominations for the position of Chair to SACRE. Cllr Stogdon nominated Cllr Galley, seconded by Rosemary Roberts. There was a unanimous decision agreeing with this nomination, therefore Cllr Galley will continue as Chair for a four year term. Cllr Galley returned to the meeting.	
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Election of Vice-Chair</b> Cllr Galley advised that after looking at the SACRE constitution at the SACRE training session earlier today, it has come to light that the position of Vice-Chair should be held by a County Councillor, for a term of four years. Cllr Galley has spoken to Democratic Services and it has been advised that SACRE can pass a resolution to amend the constitution to enable a member of the SACRE other than a Councillor to be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair.	
<b>2.3</b>	SACRE agreed to review the constitution at the June meeting. Clerk to add this to the agenda.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>2.4</b>	Cllr Galley nominated Peter White for the position of vice-chair for a four year term; this was seconded by Cllr Belsey. This decision was unanimously agreed.	

<p><b>2.5</b></p>	<p><b>Church of England group</b> Rosemary Roberts was the only member of this group attending the meeting today; therefore Rosemary agreed to be the Chair of the Church of England group.</p>	
<p><b>2.6</b></p>	<p><b>Teachers group</b> Peter Hall was nominated as chair of this group this was agreed by the other teacher reps present.</p>	
<p><b>2.7</b></p>	<p><b>Other faiths</b> Those attendees from ‘other faiths’ left the meeting to discuss the nomination, upon returning it was agreed that Peter White was to be the chair for this group.</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>3.1</b></p> <p><b>3.2</b></p> <p><b>3.3</b></p> <p><b>3.4</b></p> <p><b>3.5</b></p> <p><b>3.6</b></p> <p><b>3.7</b></p> <p><b>3.8</b></p>	<p><b>Budget update</b></p> <p>CD gave an update on the SACRE budget; no paper had been prepared as there was no change since the budget was discussed at the SACRE meeting in November 2018.</p> <p>CD confirmed that the Schools Learning and Effectiveness Service (SLES) had last year provided a £2,500 supplement to cover the drop in income generated by training courses.</p> <p>CD advised that the teacher’s conference that had been cancelled for March due to feedback from schools suggesting this was not a good time of year, would be reviewed and a possible Teachers’ conference could be held in the next academic year.</p> <p>CD asked Cllr Galley if he was satisfied with the response from the Head of Finance regarding the amount that goes to the infrastructure of SACRE following on from discussion at the November SACRE meeting i.e. £18,000 total SACRE budget with a breakdown of £5,000 direct to SACRE and £13,000 for the infrastructure.</p> <p>Cllr Galley responded that he was still unclear as the 2019/20 figure for the SACRE budget is £10,000 in total with a breakdown of £7,000 through SLES to support the work of SACRE and £3,000 contribution for infrastructure. Will this affect the support that SACRE receives?</p> <p>CD stated that the message from the Chief Finance officer is that there will be no impact to the support for SACRE from the overall reductions made. NOTE: this was confirmed at the People Scrutiny meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Cllr Daniel raised the point that he was aware there were to be significant cuts to the SLES budget and would this affect the SACRE budget? CD assured the meeting that the £7,000 budget for the activities of SACRE is protected and that SLES is only accountable for the budget of £7,000.</p> <p>Cllr Galley agreed that he would seek any further clarification from Mark Whiffin, Head of Finance, if needed.</p>	<p><b>Cllr G</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>4.1</b></p>	<p><b>Business meeting</b></p> <p><b>Minutes of meeting 13 November 2018 &amp; Matters arising</b> 2.4 Pupil conference – Cllr Galley confirmed this would be discussed later on the</p>	

	<p>agenda. Dr Mark Bishop raised a point that he had made some suggestions for the pupil conference at the SACRE meeting in November that had not been noted in the minutes and would like to be able to discuss these further. Cllr Galley gave an assurance that further discussion would take place regarding the pupil conference.</p>	
4.2	<p>7.6 CORE report – it had been considered at the last meeting that SACRE may wish to hold further discussion on this report. Cllr Galley advised that the Secretary of State had written to the RE Commission and the role of SACRE's will not be affected as suggested in the report. Cllr Galley added that he will consider if SACRE need to discuss the report further in the future.</p>	
4.3	<p>8.6 Cllr Daniel raised a point that he did not recall the discussion regarding the co-option of the Humanist representative on SACRE. Cllr Galley confirmed that this matter would be covered in the AOB item on the agenda.</p>	
4.4	<p><u>Ofsted letter</u> Cllr Galley had written to Amanda Spielman HMI Ofsted 20 December 2018, a reply had been received dated 18 January 2019. Cllr Galley felt that the reply was not very satisfactory as it appeared to be a standard response not addressing the points raised. CD will be attending an Ofsted Briefing on 28 March regarding the Ofsted Framework and will feed back any relevant information from this. Clerk to circulate the Ofsted letters to the SACRE group.</p>	CD Clerk
4.5	<p>The minutes were agreed.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) update &amp; Section 11 Audit</b></p>	
5.1	<p>Cllr Galley welcomed Victoria Jones to the meeting. Victoria is the LSCB manager within Children's Services. The purpose of Victoria's visit to the meeting was to strengthen the engagement with non-statutory agencies on safeguarding practices and to bring to the attention of SACRE the safeguarding of children and how to report any concerns to the LSCB.</p>	
5.2	<p>Victoria brought attention to the Voluntary Safeguarding Code of Practice for out of school settings. Consultation on this document closed last week.</p>	
5.3	<p>Victoria explained the section 11 audit; this document had been circulated to SACRE prior to the meeting. The audit gives assurance regarding safeguarding practices. The SACRE members were invited to feed back any comments regarding this audit.</p>	
5.4	<p>With regard to visits to schools Victoria advised that SACRE members should speak to the Headteacher regarding the safeguarding procedures for visitors in their school.</p>	
5.5	<p>CD added that her main role and responsibility in SLES is for Safeguarding and the main issue is how we conduct ourselves when visiting schools and ensure that we abide by the safeguarding policy of that school.</p>	
5.6	<p>Cllr Galley suggested that prior to any school visits we ask them to send over their safeguarding guidelines before the visit.</p>	
	<p>Cllr Galley thanked Victoria for attending the meeting.</p>	

<b>6</b>	<b>Report to the People's Scrutiny Committee</b>	
<b>6.1</b>	The Chair of SACRE's Report had been circulated to the SACRE members prior to the meeting. The report will go to the Scrutiny Committee on 7 March 2019 once agreed by SACRE.	
<b>6.2</b>	Cllr Galley suggested one amendment to the report at 4.3 (iv) to read "A complaint was made about provision at a secondary school. Since the initial complaint the school has introduced significant improvements but the requirements of the locally agreed syllabus are yet to be met in full".	
<b>6.3</b>	Cllr Webb declared an interest as a member of the People's Scrutiny Committee and asked if the officers present had any comments to make.	
<b>6.4</b>	CD commented that our advice in relation to the proposed amendment is that this is not the agreement that was made with the headteacher at the end of the visit to this school.	
<b>6.5</b>	Cllr Galley responded that SACRE is an independent body whose duties are to advise the local authority, and he felt strongly that the amendment did reflect the feedback to the school.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>6.6</b>	SACRE agreed the amendment to 4.3 (iv) of the SACRE Annual Report to the People's Scrutiny Committee.	
<b>7</b>	<b>GCSE Results 2018</b>	
<b>7.1</b>	The GCSE results had been circulated to the SACRE group prior to the meeting. These were also an appendix to the Scrutiny Report. Cllr Galley raised a query regarding the fact that several schools had no data entry. CB agreed to look into this ready for the Scrutiny Committee the following day.	<b>CB</b>
<b>7.2</b>	Cllr Galley proposed he should send letters on behalf of SACRE to the following schools congratulating them on their achievements: ARK William Parker, Chailey, Robertsbridge, Seaford Head, Claverham and Uckfield UTC. SACRE agreed that this would be a positive and welcome action.	<b>Cllr G</b>
<b>7.3</b>	CD gave an overview of the 2018 GCSE results. The take up of the full course was 32.2% of students across the county, of these 71.1% achieved a 9 – 4 pass and 32.2% achieved a 9 – 5 pass. Both figures are above the national average. With regard to the short course, 2% entered against a national figure of 3% take-up rate. Nationally there was a greater drop in pupil's entering GCSE RE both short and full courses, in East Sussex, although there was a drop in entries it was less than national.	
<b>7.4</b>	The subject of 'A' level RE results was raised. CB clarified that the majority of East Sussex schools do not have a sixth form and students will therefore move onto a Further Education provision to study 'A' levels. The Agreed Syllabus does not go beyond age 16. The results for 'A' levels shown on the documents that SACRE have been given are for students taking 'A' levels early in year 11. CB to see if we are able to provide the 'A' level results for schools and colleges in East	<b>CB</b>

	Sussex, this will be sent to SACRE once available.	
7.5	It was agreed that a review of the SACRE Development Plan will be included on the agenda for the June meeting.	<b>Clerk CB/CD</b>
7.6	CB and CD will look into which sixth forms and colleges offer RE.	
<b>8</b>	<b>School visits</b>	
8.1	Cllr Galley circulated a document to the meeting showing a list of mainly secondary schools, and some primary schools visited by members of SACRE since 2016. A commentary on each visit was included in the document.	
8.2	The overall position was discussed and CB confirmed that the local authority within their monitoring role can support members of SACRE with school visits but we need to be balanced and measured in our approach and be very clear with schools about the purpose and format of the visits.	
8.3	Cllr Galley suggested that he wrote to the Lead Member with any concerns regarding the schools to advise the local authority. CD advised that we must make sure that all schools should be subject to the same level of scrutiny.	
8.4	LW currently sends a questionnaire to all schools in October as an annual audit. The questionnaire from this year was mainly completed by schools at network meetings. This has not yet been analysed and evaluated. It was agreed that the questionnaire currently sent to schools needs to be revisited.	<b>LW</b>
8.5	Barry Blakelock commented that the comments against the current list of visits covered a range of areas such as exam results, curriculum, teaching, entries for GCSE, curriculum coverage at KS3 and KS4 etc. and as a result there is not currently a consistent view to measure quality of provision. He explained that the secondary schools now have a Secondary Improvement Board and Area Groups and a good time to send the questionnaire would be the autumn term working through the Area Groups. Barry is happy to liaise with the secondary heads and assist with data collection. It was agreed we would develop a more robust framework for assessing how well schools are meeting the entitlement of pupils as laid down in legislation. BB would liaise with Peter hall and Claire Ramalli to take this forward with support from LW and officers.	<b>BB PH CR</b>
8.6	CB suggested a piece of work be undertaken by LW to revise the questionnaire and undertake the analysis of this year's returns and then produce a document listing the schools A-Z and including data and the analysis from the questionnaires so that we have a more systematic view of RE across the county.	<b>LW</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>RE View</b>	
9.1	LW gave an overview of the content of the RE View. It was agreed to change the wording regarding the conference to "We are at a planning stage and looking to arrange a conference for the next academic year".	<b>Clerk</b>

<b>9.2</b>	Clerk to arrange Network meetings.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>9.3</b>	Clerk to send RE View to all schools.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Any other business</b>	
<b>10.1</b>	<p><b>Secondary Heads paper</b></p> <p>A paper had been received by SACRE from the Secondary Heads within East Sussex; this was regarding a request for an amendment to the wording within the Local Agreed Syllabus. It was recognised that the Secondary Heads had proposed this in a spirit of conciliation and SACRE was keen to respond positively to the proposals. Where changes are to be made to the Local Agreed Syllabus it would need to be verified through an Agreed Syllabus Conference, but this could be through representation of the main groups and a smaller conference. It was proposed that the time scale could be to agree any proposed changes at the June SACRE meeting. This would be further discussed by Cllr Galley outside of this meeting. Teacher representatives present at this meeting were willing to help with this.</p>	<b>Cllr G</b>
<b>10.2</b>	<p><b>Humanist Rep</b></p> <p>A discussion took place around the option to co-opt our current Humanist representative as a non-voting member and the difference between an observer and a co-opted member. No conclusion was drawn from this discussion other than to co-opt would not make any difference to the current Humanist membership.</p>	
<b>10.3</b>	<p><b>Pupil conference</b></p> <p>Cllr Galley will be attending the secondary hub on 13 March where this will be included on the agenda.</p> <p>Dr Bishop to write to Cllr Galley with suggestions for the pupil conference.</p>	<b>MB</b>
<b>10.4</b>	<p><b>Worship</b></p> <p>Dr Bishop asked how he would go about visiting a school to join in with worship. Cllr Galley confirmed that he would need to approach the Headteacher of the school directly.</p>	
<b>10.5</b>	<p>It was agreed that Barry Blakelock is now a full member of SACRE. Clerk to send SACRE Handbook to Barry.</p> <p>Cllr Galley will invite Mr Paul Oxborrow to become a full member of SACRE.</p>	<b>Clerk</b> <b>Cllr G</b>
<b>10.6</b>	Clerk to approach Cradle Hill school with regards being a venue for our June meeting.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>Date of the next meeting : Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019</b>		
<b>Venue: To be confirmed</b>		