

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Report**

<b>Committee/Panel:</b>	SACRE
<b>Date:</b>	21 February 2012
<b>Title:</b>	Youth Voice
<b>Reference:</b>	3683
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to inform SACRE of the proposal to establish a group of young people to discuss current issues in relation to RE and to provide opportunities for them to inform SACRE of their concerns.

## **2. Contextual information**

- 2.1. This paper supports the Corporate Strategy (maximising well being) by ensuring children's provision in religious education is secure.
- 2.2. Two members of SACRE expressed interest in this project and met with the County RE inspector in the autumn term to discuss the issues.

## **3. Other key issues**

### **3.1 Rationale:**

There is currently a gap in the engagement of young people on religious education matters across the county. This has been compounded by the lack of opportunity for youth involvement with interfaith activities which could otherwise act as a channel for communication.

Enabling a youth voice in the SACRE would be in line with the County-wide support for and interest in UNICEF Rights Respecting and Responsibilities which aims to promote 'student voice' and participation. The role of any Youth SACRE would be to create a space where we can hear the voice of youth on the SACRE in matters pertaining to religious education. Ultimately this would include the voice of young people of faiths from within the county in the same way as the SACRE itself includes representation of people of faith in Hampshire.

### 3.2 Intention:

- to enable young people to have a voice into the SACRE. There is a gap for young people to articulate their views about RE in Hampshire.
- to bring together an initial consultation group. Teachers who are on The County Secondary RE Steering Group will be offered the opportunity to bring between two and four year 9 students (chosen in an inclusive way) to an initial meeting in Winchester.

### 3.3 Process:

- Two meeting dates are fixed, (i) in Late June (to avoid examination season) and (ii) in early autumn term in a room in the older part of QEII to lend weight to the meeting. We that suggest that the Chair of SACRE invite the Leader, the Chairman of the County Council and/or Councillor Perry to welcome them to the County Council Buildings. The meetings would be run in an enabling fashion carefully facilitated. The details of this would be planned later.
- The purposes of the SACRE and this meeting need to be carefully communicated to the young people in advance of the meeting.
- The outcome of the initial meeting would be to raise some questions for all participants to consider in advance of the second meeting. This may be perhaps some research in their schools or other things which facilitate further reflection on the work of religious education in the county from a young person's perspective. This research would be brought back to the second meeting and considered. By the end of the second meeting a decision would be made with regard to continuing the Youth SACRE. If the decision was to continue, processes and procedures for membership and running of the meetings would be determined.
- Later we would seek to ensure representative involvement of young people from faiths and develop a more formalised framework for the Youth SACRE.
- Initial costs to county for this would be minimal. It would be the responsibility of the school to fund and risk assess the initial two meetings. We would ask that County offer the rooms and provide refreshments.
- Pat Hannam would approach The Westhill Trust for longer term funding to support this.

Report provided by:-

Elizabeth Jenkerson  
Mohammed Ansar  
Patricia Hannam  
23.01.12

**4. Recommendation**

That SACRE notes the report and endorses the proposal identified in the Process (3.3).

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

