

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Report

<b>Committee/Panel:</b>	SACRE
<b>Date:</b>	9 March 2015
<b>Title:</b>	South Central RE Hub
<b>Reference:</b>	6573
<b>Report From:</b>	<i>Director of Children's Services</i>

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#### 1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to inform SACRE of the meetings of the South Central RE Hub.
- 1.2. The South Central RE Hub has met twice, once in November 2014 and then again in February 2015.

#### 2. Contextual information

2.1 The South Central RE Hub is one of 14 Hubs nationally; each one is different. The idea of the RE Hubs emerged from the Religious Education Council RE Review.

2.2 The South Central RE Hub has grown out of the regional (Joint) SACRE meetings although now includes fewer SACREs than the Joint SACRE at its maximum size. A small grant from the Culham St. Gabriel's Trust has enabled the 'hub' to begin working together. This is a collaborative venture to enable a range of opportunities for building leadership capacity, of teachers of both primary and secondary religious education (RE), across the area of the hub.

2.3 This Hub remains a joint SACRE initiative with strong links back to several individual SACREs, including Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton, Isle of Wight, and others. However membership of the hub has been widened slightly to include teachers from different phases and different status' of school (LA and Academy as well as Teaching Schools) and from The University of Winchester. Constituent Hub members aim work together in various ways to share good practice and engage in activities that are better done together rather than alone.

### **3. Hub activities and plans**

3.1 Three broad and interconnecting elements form the focus of the South Central Hub's work.

3.2 The first element is the formation of a Reading and Research group. This will be actively managed jointly by Hampshire Inspector/Adviser for RE (HIAS) and the University of Winchester. The Reading and Research group aims to enable teachers working across all phases of RE to explore current research and initiatives, as well as to develop research potential in schools. The dates for the first two meetings have been established - 10th May and 8th July. Each meeting will be held at The University of Winchester from 16.30 -18.30. The University of Winchester will offer participants who are interested the opportunity to enrol on their flexible MA Ed programme. This will mean that teachers could gain credits towards a Master's degree in Education.

3.3 The second element aims to build leadership capacity for RE through linking existing, and developing new, networks of teachers that exist across the hub area. It will be a mechanism to cascade new ideas and consolidate and share good practice.

3.4 The third element of work is aimed at responding to the known need for subject booster opportunities. The South Central RE Hub recognises the range of differing needs of specialist and non-specialist RE teachers, and intends to build capacity for both. Four aspects to this work were clarified.

3.4.1 Basic subject knowledge booster courses for non-specialist and specialist teachers of RE, across phases. Capacity exists for these to run through Hampshire teaching and leadership college (HTLC).

3.4.2 More advanced subject booster sessions for specialists dealing with controversial areas.

3.4.3 The possibility of a subject specialist (secondary) RE conversion course, in conjunction with The University of Winchester is being investigated.

3.4.4 A programme of informal meetings with people of faith will be held at the Hampshire RE Curriculum centre in Winchester entitled 'Conversations with Religion'. These sessions will be free and chaired by an experienced RE teacher.

### **4. Recommendation**

4.1. That SACRE notes the report.

**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

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

**Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:**

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

#### **1.1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

This report has the intention to positively impact equality in terms of achievement in Religious Education.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

2.1. No impact on crime and disorder as a result of this report has been identified.

### **3. Climate Change:**

a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

No impact on climate change as a result of this report has been identified

b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

No necessity for consideration of the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts as a result of this report has been identified.