

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	SACRE
Date:	1 June 2015
Title:	South Central SACRE RE 'hub'.
Reference:	6684
Report From:	<i>Director of Children's Services</i>

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1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to inform SACRE of recent activity at the South Central SACRE RE 'hub' meeting on 6th May 2015.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. Joint SACRE meetings began to take place again in September 2012 after a period of inactivity. The group was formed initially of seven SACREs: Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton, Isle of Wight, West Sussex, Bournemouth and Poole. The group determined its protocol and purpose planning initially to meet twice each year as had formerly been the case. However after two meetings the group decided it would value meeting three times each year; meetings are held in Winchester.
- 2.2. This group had met regularly since 2012 and grew until the summer of 2014 to include representatives from twelve SACREs including Dorset, Wiltshire, West Berkshire, Surrey, Reading and Wokingham.
- 2.3. Funding had been received from the Culham St Gabriels Trust to form this group into a regional 'hub' as conceived in the Religious Education Council Report of 2013. The first meeting of this newly configured 'hub' group was in October 2014. The purpose of this hub, which now covers the area of around 7 SACREs, is to promote high quality leadership of RE in primary and secondary schools across the area.
- 2.4. The group is working in three key areas:
- a) The networking of networks across the area covered by the 'hub', to link these to the NATRE national RE networks and to ensure good practice is

shared across all groups whether or not they are organised by an inspector/adviser.

- b) Promote engagement in high quality research in Religious Education across the region. This initiative is between HIAS and the University of Winchester.
- c) Promote high quality teacher continuing professional development particularly in relation to subject knowledge.

3. National meeting of RE Hub coordinators

- 3.1. The inspector/adviser reported to the meeting about the national meeting of hub coordinators in Birmingham which took place at the end of April and which was fully funded by the Culham St Gabriels Trust. This meeting was invaluable in terms of gleaning and sharing good practice. The hubs have all been more successful than anyone had envisaged and importantly all are slightly different.

4. Reading and Research Group

- 4.1. The first meeting of the Reading and Research Group took place on 11th May. It far exceeded expectations in terms of attendance. There seems to be an appetite for teachers at all stages of their careers, as well as in the different phases of education to engage with theory and appreciate the educational contribution of Religious Education to the whole school curriculum.
- 4.2. The next meeting on July 8th (16.30 -18.30) at Winchester University, will give an opportunity for teachers who are currently embarking on research of any kind to share their work in a semi-formal manner.
- 4.3. It is hoped that some teachers will be able to take up the opportunity of beginning Master's Level study in Religious Education and that others will be interested to consider the Farmington Fellowships that are available on application. However, this is not compulsory to attend the meetings.

5. The Future role of the SACRE RE Hub

- 5.1. It was agreed that the SACRE RE Hub group would continue to meet once each term and act as a steering group for the work of the hub.
- 5.2. Membership of the hub would be SACRE members from the areas involved as well as the Inspector/Advisers for Hampshire and elsewhere, representatives from ITE institutions in the area, as well as Catholic and Anglican Dioceses and teachers. The Steering Group would aim to bring together all those with an interested position in relation to the leadership and management of Religious Education across the area. It would aim to be as inclusive as possible and work to achieve together educationally, for the

common good of all children and young people, what would be harder to achieve alone.

6. Recommendation:

- That SACRE notes this report.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
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. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. As a consequence of establishing a regional SACRE hub, equality is advanced through the improvement of religious education in the region.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. No impact on crime and disorder has been identified in this report.

3. Climate Change:

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

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

No impact on climate change has been identified in this report.