

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report for Information

Title:	Item 9. Community Cohesion and Prevent Strategy
Presented to:	SACRE
Presented by:	Director of Children's Services
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1) Purpose of Report: Community Cohesion

- 1.1. This report provides an update on the progress of the work towards support teachers to contribute to their school's duty to work towards community cohesion. This includes discussion about the project which concluded at the end of its second year and details of the proposal for the continuation of the project to 2011.

2) Contextual Issues:

- 2.1 The project has enabled the construction of a strategy for addressing social cohesion in relation to community diversity and conditions for effective learning of pupils in schools. This project supports the following Hampshire County Council priorities:
 - "Making Hampshire safer and more secure for all" – by encouraging better and more informed relations between communities and institutions
 - "Maximising well-being" – by addressing common purpose amongst communities in Hampshire and its children
 - "Enhancing our quality of place" – through providing support for the positive recognition of minority communities and religious groups.

3) Overview of the project

- 3.1 The project's focus has sought to identify best practice in Hampshire schools to promote community cohesion. The activities in which schools have become involved with the project were funded until summer 2009 from Hampshire local authority by providing support from the two RE inspectors through the advisory

and inspection service. Funding was also made available under the community cohesion brief, through the support of David Bond and the Hampshire Archive office. There are also close links with the Rights, Respect and Responsibility agenda and the Unicef award for a "Rights Respecting School".

- 3.2 Schools worked in cross phase partnerships in some instances, or in partnership with the Hampshire Archive Office in others. Pupils were involved in a variety of activities including visits, interviewing members of the community and focussing on story and narratives within their own experience and within the community. Pupils attention focused on concepts such as *transition, memorials, community and remembrance*.

4) The development of the project:

- 4.1 The Hampshire Museum service has made a successful bid for funding that will enable the Community Cohesion project to continue into 2011. They are planning to work closely with a partnership between an infant school, a junior and a secondary school and the Aldershot museum. The plan is to use museum space to disseminate the activities more widely with the involvement of parents and other members of the community. The funding will also enable the Hampshire RE team to continue in an advisory capacity. The project will be developed through a conceptual enquiry approach and the shared concept to be explored through this cross phase project will be 'place'. The project will use the artefacts from the museum as well as developing a collection from the project which can be used to enhance the existing collection.
- 4.2 The project was due to begin in January however due to illness of a key organise the beginning of this work has been postponed until later in March.

5) New OFSTED framework.

- 5.1 Since 2007 OFSTED have inspected schools' work towards community cohesion. Since September 2008 there has been a new OFSTED framework and in January 2010 OFSTED published new guidance to inspectors on the inspection of the Duty for Community Cohesion.
- 5.2 Schools now need to note the religious and faith make up of the school community in the opening narrative of their Self Evaluation Forms (SEFs). This has to be seen also in the wider context of the local community the school is in and also the national community and the global community. Faith issues are now in the fore according to OFSTED criteria and the approach of Hampshire's

agreed syllabus, Living Difference, has a great deal to contribute.

6) The Prevent strategy

- 6.1 The Prevent Strategy is a Government initiative “The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England. Stopping people becoming or supporting terrorists and violent extremists.” This is a cross agency approach involving, amongst others, education, the police, and the youth service. There has been an audit of Hampshire work and the secondary RE inspector contributed to this.
- 6.2 Members of the Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service (HIAS) have been planning conference to take place on 11th February at The Maltings, Alton. The keynote speaker is Sir Keith Ajegbo. Our secondary RE Inspector will be making a presentation about enquiry based learning approach in RE in Hampshire. The Chair of SACRE will attend and contribute.

7) Conclusions

That SACRE notes the report and endorses the continued developments of the Community Cohesion project led by the Hampshire Museum Service.

That SACRE recommends that guidance to governors and senior leaders in school is produced regarding the contribution of RE to Community Cohesion.

SACRE recommends that training is offered on the faith and religious dimension of community cohesion to Senior Management in schools.

SACRE recommends that training for Heads of Department in the north of the county is offered as soon as possible, regarding the religious diversity of the Nepalese community present in Hampshire.

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