

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report for Information

Title:	Item 10. The NASACRE Conference
Presented to:	SACRE
Presented by:	The Director of Children's Services
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1) Purpose of Report:

- 1.1 This report provides SACRE with a brief summary of the National Association of SACRE's (NASACRE) conference held on 12 May 2010.

2) Contextual Issues:

- 2.1 This paper supports the Corporate Strategy (maximising well being) by ensuring children's provision in religious education is secure.
- 2.2 The conference held in London was attended by Chris Hughes and Judith Lowndes, the supporting officer to SACRE.

3) The Conference:

- 3.1 **The keynote address** was from Clare Short who spoke about *Religion, Politics and Community: SACREs' capacity to engage...* Her talk was engaging and inspiring and promoted stimulating discussion and questions. A summary of the address will be posted on the NASACRE website.

Some key points of particular significance to RE were:

- The work of RE teachers in the last few decades has massively shifted attitudes within Britain towards creating a more tolerant/respectful society. RE teachers should take pride in that achievement.
- There will be new challenges ahead. It is no longer sufficient to explore different religious beliefs. It is also

important to investigate and address unequal distribution of wealth and how, within a society, that can lead to dissatisfaction and violence.

- There are features of religion that are not always “pretty” or “good” or “pleasant”, and teachers should enable pupils to engage with the controversial aspects of religion in order to develop dialogue and a better mutual understanding.

3.2 **The AGM** followed the keynote address. There was some discussion about proposed constitutional changes. These were:-

- That NASACRE adopts procedures for handling motions set out in Annex A (see attached)
- That NASACRE increases the number of co-opted places on its Executive Committee from three to six.

Both motions were passed.

3.3 **National updates** were provided by Jacqui Wordsworth (Her Majesties Inspector), Mark Chater (Qualification and Curriculum Development Agency), John Keast (Consultant to Department for Children, Schools and Families) and Brian Gates (RE Council)

Issues discussed included the following:-

- All Chairs of SACREs have been sent a communication from the chair of the British Humanist Association encouraging SACREs to consider making Humanists full members of group A rather than co-opted members.
- The REsilience (13-16) project plans to work with a selection of schools to carry out audits of their own provision and to identify needs for development . From September 2010 to March 2011 there are plans for mentors to work with those schools to improve provision.
- A SEF (self evaluation form) for RE has been produced to work within the whole school self evaluation process carried out by all schools. This will be available shortly on the betterre website for RE managers and heads of department to access.
- The long report for RE, providing judgements about the health of RE nationally, is produced every three years by Alan Brine, National Advisor for RE (HMI). The current report was delayed until after the general election. The draft title is *Transforming Religious Education*.

3.4 There was an introduction to and a **launch of training materials for SACREs**. A free CD has been provided to all SACREs for training new and existing members and inform them about their roles and responsibilities. The CD is entitled *Effective SACREs: Serving the Local Community*.

3.5 Announcements were made for the 20010/11 Young people's faith forum awards

4) Recommendation:

i) That SACRE notes the report.

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

Appendix 1:

Appendix 2: