

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

Monday, 14 May 2012

**2.00 pm**

Kingston Centre, Fairway, Stafford ST16 3TW

John Tradewell  
Director of Law and Democracy  
3 May 2012

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**A G E N D A**

1. **Apologies**
2. **Welcome to New Members**
3. **Declaration of Any other Business**
4. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 February 2012** (Pages 1 - 4)
5. **An Update on Key Issues** (Pages 5 - 6)  
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People
6. **NASACRE Update** (Pages 7 - 8)  
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People
7. **British Humanist Association: Membership of Committee A** (Pages 9 - 10)  
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People
8. **An Opportunity to Discuss Brent's Code of Conduct for SACRE Members** (Pages 11 - 14)



Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People

9. **Ofsted Subject Themed Inspections** (Pages 15 - 16)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People

10. **Monitoring of Secondary Schools** (Pages 17 - 20)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People

11. **NASACRE Project: A Sense of Place** (Pages 21 - 22)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People

12. **The Spiritualist Church** (Pages 23 - 24)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People

13. **Applications for Variation of Practice** (Pages 25 - 26)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People

14. **The SACRE Awards and SACRE Lecture** (Pages 27 - 28)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People

15. **Date of Next Meeting**

That the next SACRE meeting is scheduled for 19 November, 2.00 pm, Kingston Centre, Stafford.

16. **AOB**

**Membership**

Sonia Andjelkovic	Sam Phillips
Ann Hewetson	Sue Blackmore
Diana Cutler	Mary Gale
Tajinder Singh	Colin Hopkins
Paul Lewis	Rosemary Woodward
Jane Essex	Peter Davies
Christine Chadwick	Veronica Downes
G Devadason	Terry Finn
Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal (Vice-	Ivan Jennings

Chairman)  
Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf  
(Chairman)  
Karen Knobbs  
Dr Laow  
Liz O'Brien  
Muhammad Parekh

Liz Staples  
Tricia Budd  
Frankie Durairatnam  
Liz Williams  
Rev. J. Kime



**MINUTES**

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Meeting - 7 February 2012**

Present: **Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf**

Ann Hewetson, Diana Cutler, Jane Essex, Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal, Dr Laow, Sue Blackmore, Mary Gale, Rosemary Woodward, Peter Davies, Veronica Downes, Terry Finn, Tricia Budd and Sonia Andjelkovic

Apologies for absence: Paul Lewis, Christine Chadwick, Liz O'Brien, Colin Hopkins, Dave Lyons, Liz Staples, Frankie Durairatnam, Liz Williams and Rev. J. Kime

Also in attendance - Emma Senior

**PART ONE**

**26. Welcome to New Members**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Ann Hewetson to the SACRE. Mrs Hewetson will be the second Catholic representative on Committee A.

**27. Election of Vice-Chairman**

At their meeting of 14 November 2011 SACRE had deferred electing a Vice-Chairman. The Chairman now proposed, and Mr Peter Davies seconded and it was:

**RESOLVED** \_ That Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal be elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

**28. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 November 2011**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**29. An Update on Key Issues**

SACRE received an update on key issues that had developed or arisen since their last meeting. The issues included were:

- i. The SACRE annual report (copies of the report were available for members at the meeting); and,
- ii. Recruitment to RE CPD training (any members wishing to attend this training were welcome and should contact Emma Senior).

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

**30. NASACRE Update**

The Chairman gave an oral update on recent NASACRE developments, including:

- a) The changing landscape in terms of education and how SACREs fit into this new picture. In particular NASACRE were considering how SACREs could promote good relationships with academies and how they could ensure the provision of RE on the curriculum in all schools. NASACRE was due to produce a pamphlet on this issue;
- b) The next round of project awards was due, specifically the Westhill Trust for which Staffordshire had had a successful bid last year developing a DVD resource around the Memorial Arboretum. The award had changed slightly this year and would now be £4000 for successful projects. Members discussed the possibility of submitting a similar bid around the Arboretum but looking at producing a resource for primary aged pupils. The possibility of basing the project around commemoration was suggested; and,
- c) Academy representation on local SACREs had been considered, with two possible ways forward suggested, these being: create a new academy representative on Committee C or co-opt an academy member on to SACRE (not being part of any committee and therefore not being entitled to a vote).

**RESOLVED** – That the oral report be noted.

### **31. British Humanist Association: Membership of Committee A**

The SACRE received a brief update on recent correspondence with the British Humanist Association following their request for full membership to Committee A of SACRE that had been debated at the 14 November SACRE meeting. SACRE heard from Tricia Budd, Staffordshire SACREs co-opted humanist representative, outlining the number of humanist communities in Staffordshire. They were also reminded that the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus made reference to humanism amongst other life stances.

After a detailed debate members agreed that they wished to inform the Local Authority (LA) that they were minded to include a humanist representative on Committee A.

**RESOLVED** – That the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills be informed that the SACRE are minded to include a humanist representative onto Committee A.

### **32. Brent's Code of Conduct for SACRE Members**

The SACRE received a copy of the code of conduct produced by Brent City Council for their SACRE members. The code was intended to ensure that their SACRE members had the right intentions for becoming a member and would commit to working together for the good of the SACRE and for the benefit of RE.

Members broke into small workshop groups to consider the detail of the code. On the whole they felt the content was sound with exceptions on references to “assume at all times”. The Chairman invited Jane Essex to draft a Staffordshire version of the Brent code for discussion at the next meeting.

**RESOLVED** – That the Jane Essex produce a draft Staffordshire code of conduct based on the Brent Code for the next meeting.

### **33. Ofsted Subject Focused Inspections**

Members were informed of the RE subject focused Ofsted inspection in 2011 of Maryhill High School where the judgment had been inadequate. This had raised concerns as the whole school inspection the previous year had given a judgment of "good". A letter to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools was shared with members which highlighted the concerns over these variations in judgement.

SACRE endorsed the letter to Ofsted.

**RESOLVED** – That the Chairman's letter to the Ofsted Chief Inspector be endorsed.

### **34. Monitoring of Secondary Schools**

Members received a copy of a letter sent to schools seeking details of their RE provision for KS3 and 4 and pointing out the consequences of the recent inadequate RE subject focused inspection at a Staffordshire school.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

### **35. SACRE sln2 login Codes**

SACRE were reminded of the sln2 learning platform for Staffordshire and the need to have their individual user name and login to access this function. Following their last meeting members had been asked to email the clerk to receive their login and passwords and those who wished to receive their access details should email Helen Phillips after the meeting.

**RESOLVED** – That member's note they need to email the Clerk to access their username and password details for the sln2 information platform.

### **36. Monitoring of Primary School Provision 2011/2012**

In a change to previous years a new system of electronic questionnaires had been set up on sln2. Schools had been invited to complete the online questionnaire through a letter and e-update. With SACRE members able to access the sln2 data it was now possible for members to view the responses on a regular basis.

**RESOLVED** – That the findings from the 2011/12 monitoring be received.

### **37. Applications for Variation of Practice**

None had been received

### **38. The SACRE Budget 2011-2012**

The SACRE budget was available to support the work of SACRE during the financial year 2011-12. Members received an account of the monies spent to date.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

**39. Date of the next Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the next SACRE meeting is held on 14 May 2012, 2.00pm, Kingston Centre, Stafford.

**Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf  
Chairman**

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Documents referred to in these minutes as Schedules are not appended, but will be attached to the signed copy of the Minutes of the meeting. Copies, or specific information contained in them, may be available on request.



**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

**14<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People**

**An Update on Key Issues**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To present members of SACRE with a brief update on key issues that have developed or arisen since the last meeting of SACRE.

**2 Summary**

2.1 Members of SACRE will receive a brief report on a number of key issues. These are matters which have either been raised at previous SACRE meetings and which have moved forward, or matters on which it is appropriate to brief members of SACRE.

**3 Recommendation**

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report and note the contents

**4 Background**

4.1 Since the autumn term meeting of the SACRE there have been developments in a number of areas which had previously been agenda items for SACRE or which have local or national importance for RE.

4.2 Members will be briefed on these key developments which include replies to letters received from Councillor Liz staples and Ofsted.

**5 Equal Opportunities**

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

**6 Financial implications**

6.1 Financial implications may be raised by individual items. These have been dealt with elsewhere, or will be raised at future meetings of SACRE.

**Contact Officer**  
**Telephone number:**

**Emma Senior**  
**01785 277997**



**14<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People**

**An Update NASACRE**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To present members of SACRE with a brief update on key issues that have developed or arisen since the last meeting of SACRE.

**2 Summary**

2.1 Members of SACRE will receive a brief report on a number of key issues. These are matters on which it is appropriate to brief members of SACRE.

**3 Recommendation**

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report and note the contents

**4 Background**

4.1 NASACRE is the national body of SACRE's. National meetings are held to which members of SACRE are invited and encouraged to attend. Issues are discussed which have local or national importance for RE.

4.2 Members will be briefed on any key developments.

**5 Equal Opportunities**

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

**6 Financial implications**

6.1 Financial implications may be raised by individual items. These have been dealt with elsewhere, or will be raised at future meetings of SACRE.

**Contact Officer**  
**Telephone number:**

**Emma Senior**  
**01785 277997**



**14<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People**

**The British Humanist Association**

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To present members of SACRE with a brief update on recent correspondence regarding the appointment of a Humanist to Committee A.

**2 Summary**

- 2.1 Members of SACRE will receive a brief update on recent correspondence with the County Council. This is a matter on which it is appropriate to brief members of SACRE.

**3 Recommendation**

- 3.1 That members of SACRE hear the update and note the contents

**4 Background**

- 4.1 The British Humanist Association emailed SACRE to request that we grant full membership to a humanist representative to committee A of SACRE.
- 4.2 Following a discussion on this at the last meeting the Chair will update us on developments with this matter.

**5 Equal Opportunities**

- 5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

**6 Financial implications**

- 6.1 Financial implications may be raised by individual items. These have been dealt with elsewhere, or will be raised at future meetings of SACRE.

**Contact Officer**  
**Telephone number:**

**Emma Senior**  
**01785 277997**



**14<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People**

**Code of Conduct for SACRE members**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To discuss the introduction of a code of conduct for SACRE.

**2 Summary**

2.1 Members of SACRE will have an opportunity to discuss this matter and whether Staffordshire's SACRE should adopt a similar protocol.

**3 Recommendation**

3.1 That members of SACRE hear the update and note the contents

**4 Background**

4.1 At the last meeting SACRE members discussed Brent SACRE's Code of Conduct which is Brent's way of ensuring that members of SACRE have the right intentions from the outset and are committed to working together for the good of SACRE and for the good of Religious Education.

4.2 At the last meeting the Chairman invited Jane Essex to draft a Staffordshire version of the Brent code for discussion at this meeting.

**5 Equal Opportunities**

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

**6 Financial implications**

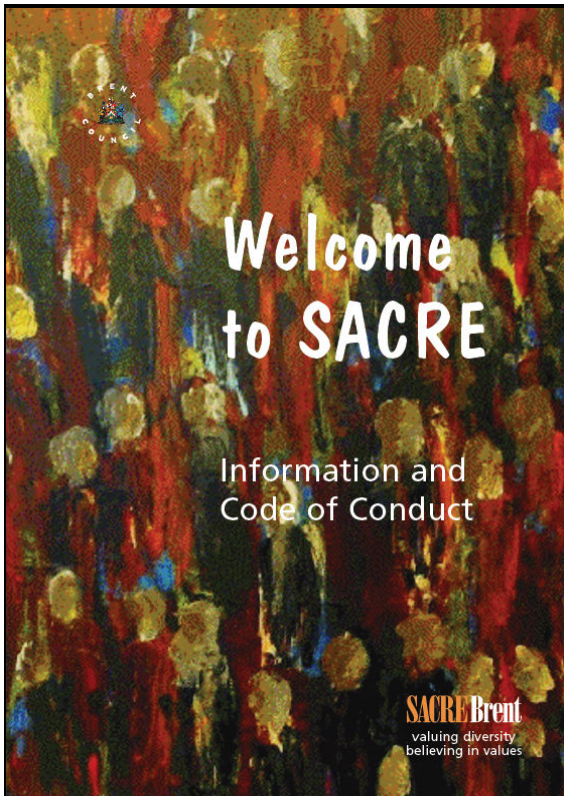
6.1 Financial implications may be raised by individual items. These have been dealt with elsewhere, or will be raised at future meetings of SACRE.

**Contact Officer**  
**Telephone number:**

**Emma Senior**  
**01785 277997**







## Code of conduct

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### **All representatives should:**

- attend the meetings of SACRE and take part in the deliberations and work of SACRE
- participate in and review the work of SACRE for the benefit of the whole community
- actively challenge and resist stereotyping
- assume at all times that other members of SACRE are honourable and concerned with the best interests of SACRE
- state views and opinions honestly and, where appropriate, forcefully but at all times politely
- respect the rights of other members to disagree with your point of view

### **Faith group representatives should:**

- ensure that they are adequately qualified to represent their faith community
- be able to explain how they intend to inform and consult with their faith community
- feel a sense of responsibility not only to the children coming from their own faith but also to all the children of Brent
- provide expertise, or assist in providing access to such expertise, in matters of fact, tradition, theology and practice relating to their own faith for the benefit of the whole school population
- represent to SACRE the interests and concerns of their own faith community
- endeavour to represent fairly the views and interests of the widest possible range of faith positions within their community (this is particularly relevant if they are the sole representative on SACRE for their faith.)
- follow the guidelines for visits to schools (see below)
- recognise that stating a belief or religious tenet is not the same as advancing an argument for or against any proposal, although it may well be an overriding consideration
- inform members of their faith community of the work of SACRE

### **For school visits faith group representatives should:**

- only visit a school as a SACRE faith group representative when invited
- inform the Clerk of SACRE of any invitation received and visits made
- make absolutely clear that you are speaking from the perspective of the particular religion or belief system that you are representing
- ensure that you do not say or do anything, which could be viewed as denigrating any other religion or ethical belief system
- at all times behave honourably in relation to your fellow SACRE members

### **Teacher and teacher association representatives should:**

- provide information and expertise in relation to teaching and the school environment
- if appropriate provide information and expertise in relation to the teaching of religious education and the carrying out of *collective worship* in schools
- represent the interests and concerns of teachers, pupils and schools
- consult with teaching colleagues and students
- keep colleagues informed about the work of SACRE
- ensure that the welfare and education of all the children in Brent is the primary focus of SACRE

### **Council representatives should:**

- represent the wider public interest
- provide information and expertise to SACRE in their capacity as an elected member of Brent Council
- inform SACRE of concerns or issues known to Brent Council relating to education and in particular the provision for SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development), teaching of *religious education* and the carrying out of *collective worship* in schools
- support the work of SACRE by representing its interests in Brent Council
- endeavour to ensure that SACRE is adequately funded and supported
- ensure that legal requirements for the conduct of SACRE are observed in particular in relation to the suitability and qualifications required to be a member of SACRE

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

**14 May 2012**

**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People**

**Ofsted subject focused Inspections**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To update SACRE with recent developments in subject focused RE inspections

**2 Summary**

2.1 Each year SACRE carries out 30 Religious Education (RE) focused inspections in secondary schools and 30 subject themed inspections in primary schools.

**3 Recommendation**

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report

**4 Background**

4.1 An RE focused inspection was held at Clayton High School on 30<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> May.

4.2 Members will be also be updated on progress made at Maryhill since their subject report was published.

**5 Equal Opportunities**

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

**6 Financial implications**

6.1 Financial implications are indicated in the budget account.

**Contact Officer**  
**Telephone number:**

**Emma Senior**  
**01785 27799**



**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

**14<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People**

**Monitoring of secondary schools**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To brief members of SACRE on the recent monitoring of provision in secondary schools in Staffordshire.

**2 Summary**

2.1 A letter was recently sent to all secondary schools in Staffordshire requesting that they outline provision for RE throughout the school. A copy of the letter is attached.

2.2 The results of that monitoring will be shared at this meeting.

**3 Recommendation**

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the summary and note its contents.

**4 Background**

4.1 Members will be briefed on all events which are taking place. A summary is attached to this paper.

**5 Equal Opportunities**

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

**6 Financial implications**

6.1 There are no immediate financial implications

**Contact Officer**  
**Telephone number:**

**Emma Senior**  
**01785 277997**

Summary:

- 45% response rate
- All respondents either provide RE for all students or will have it in place for September 2012
- This survey has provided SACRE with an up to date picture of RE provision throughout the county

<b>Level of response</b>	25 replies (6 Academies, 3 Catholic schools, 16 County schools)	
<b>KS3</b>	<b>Time allocated for RE per week:</b>	<b>Catholic schools all 2hrs + Academies all 50mins+ All County schools 1 hr +</b>
<b>KS4 Non-exam class</b>	<b>Time allocated for RE per week:</b>	<b>Catholic schools all 2hrs + Academies all 50mins+ 15 county schools 1hr+ 1 county school 30mins</b>
<b>KS4 Short course GCSE RE exam class</b>	<b>Time allocated for RE per week:</b>	<b>Catholic schools all 2hrs + Academies all 50mins+ 15 county schools 1hr+ 1 county school 30mins</b>
<b>KS4 Full course GCSE RE exam class</b>	<b>Time allocated for RE per week:</b>	<b>Catholic schools all 2hrs + Academies all 50mins+ 9 county schools offer a full course option at 1hr +</b>
<b>Use this space to tell SACRE if there are pupils in your school who don't receive any RE teaching at all</b>	<p><b>One county school found to be non compliant, Maryhill High School. This school is receiving extra support following an Ofsted subject focused inspection and will be fully compliant by September 2012</b></p> <p><b>5 county schools identified that SEN students received their RE input via the COPE or ASDAN course as appropriate to their needs.</b></p>	
<b>Use this space to tell SACRE if your arrangements for RE differ from the categories above</b>	<b>3 county schools identified that their RE provision was via an integrated humanities course (Abbot Beyne, Wolgarston, Paget)</b>	

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**14<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People**

**NASACRE project: A Sense of Place**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To present members of SACRE with a brief update on developments with the NASACRE project

**2 Summary**

2.1 Staffordshire SACRE was awarded £5000 to produce a DVD and resource pack for the National Memorial Arboretum.

**3 Recommendation**

3.1 That members of SACRE hear the update and note the contents

**4 Background**

4.1 The NASACRE project is now complete. A DVD and resource CD Rom have been produced.

4.2 A launch event is being held at The National Memorial Arboretum on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 4-6pm. The launch will take the place of the usual secondary RE network meeting. SACRE members are invited to attend.

4.3 Emma Senior is now working to produce a primary version of the resource.

**5 Equal Opportunities**

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

**6 Financial implications**

6.1 Financial implications may be raised by individual items. These have been dealt with elsewhere, or will be raised at future meetings of SACRE.

**Contact Officer**  
**Telephone number:**

**Emma Senior**  
**01785 277997**



**14<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People**

**Spiritualist Church**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To present members of SACRE with information about the Spiritualist Church

**2 Summary**

2.1 Members of SACRE have received information about The Spiritualist Church.

**3 Recommendation**

3.1 That members of SACRE hear the update and note the contents

**4 Background**

4.1 The Spiritualist Church are keen to inform people about their faith and belief which they believe is often misunderstood. They have worked to produce an information pack for schools which they would like to share at this meeting.

**5 Equal Opportunities**

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

**6 Financial implications**

6.1 Financial implications may be raised by individual items. These have been dealt with elsewhere, or will be raised at future meetings of SACRE.

**Contact Officer**  
**Telephone number:**

**Emma Senior**  
**01785 277997**



**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

**14<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People**

**Applications for variation of practice**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To consider any applications for variation of practice to religious education and or collective worship.

**2 Summary**

2.1 Upon receipt of a written application from a Headteacher of a county school SACRE should determine whether it is appropriate to disapply the requirement for broadly Christian collective worship and/or make amendments to the way the Agreed Syllabus is followed in the case of that school.

**3 Recommendation**

3.1 That members of SACRE are updated on any new developments in this area.

**4 Background**

4.1 No applications have been received at this time.

**5 Equal Opportunities**

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

**6 Financial implications**

6.1 There are no immediate financial implications

**Contact Officer**  
**Telephone number:**

**Emma Senior**  
**01785 277997**



**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

**14<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People**

**The SACRE Awards 2012 and the SACRE Lecture 2012**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To advise members of arrangements for the SACRE Awards and the SACRE Lecture 2012.

**2 Summary**

2.1 The SACRE Awards 2012-2012 will be held at Staffordshire University on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July (subject to confirmation).

2.2 The SACRE Lecture will be held at the Kingston Centre in September 2012.

**3 Recommendation**

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report and make any recommendations regarding these two SACRE initiatives

**4 Background**

4.1 Following on from last years successful event this year The **SACRE Awards** will again be joining together with Stafford Friends of Faith to form a part of the annual peace event. The event is a celebration of peace and harmony between people of faith and a recognition of the success that interfaith networking can bring. The event has always been much appreciated by those who attend and this year will be no different. Awards will continue to be given in four categories: pupils, teachers, schools/departments, members of the wider community.

4.2 Schools have been invited to submit nominations for the 2012 awards. SACRE members are also invited to submit nominations.

4.3 Members of SACRE are invited to attend along with other dignitaries including the Mayor and Councillors.

4.4 Members are invited to make suggestions for a speaker for this years SACRE lecture.

**5 Equal Opportunities**

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

**6 Financial implications**

6.1 The cost of the Awards will be jointly funded by SACRE and Friends of Faith and the Lecture will be met from the SACRE budget.

**Contact Officer**  
**Telephone number:**

**Emma Senior**  
**01785 27799**

