

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

14th November 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.

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.

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Religious Education Subject Review

The RE Council of England and Wales (REC) has initiated a Subject Review of Religious Education in England, to parallel the review of other subjects on the curriculum that is currently being undertaken by the government. Members may wish to read the letters that the REC have distributed outlining the process.

The REC consider that the issues under review could be described through **tasks** focused on the following areas: an analysis of current strengths and weaknesses of RE; a consideration of the implications of the impact of current Government policies on RE; the 'case' for RE; refocusing the RE curriculum; exemplars of good practice in RE; a way forward for qualifications in RE; an agreement about the national/local balance of responsibility for RE. The Review will also lead to the identification of, and solutions to, further emerging issues during the next 18 months.

Collective worship

Helpful guidance regarding Collective worship has been shared via AREIAC. A copy is attached for members to read and refresh their knowledge and understanding of this area. Question: Would it be an idea for members be contacting schools to see collective worship? Should this be an agenda item?

Response from Ofsted

SACRE has received a letter from Susan Gregory HMI relating to a letter sent by the Chair. The Chair has made a formal response to this letter which members may like to become familiar with.

Spirited Arts

Emma Jardine ran a course at the Kingston Centre along with colleagues called 'Spirited Arts'. One of the school's that took part has this month featured in RE Today magazine for its good work. SACRE member Sam Philips also had direct involvement in the schools success. SACRE members may wish to read the article.