



MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 JUNE 2019

Members

Group A: *Patricia Alder, Dr Bernard Arambepola, Nick Chanda, Andrew Gaudion, Muhammad Ibrahim, Rabbi Yuval Keren, Rabbi Emanuel Levy, Marina Robb, Jill Saxton, Ruth Serner, Navaratnam Shanmuganathan, Rubbina Umar, Sirvan Karakis, vacancy x 5*

Group B: *Margaret Coleman, The Revd. Ian Crofts, The Revd. Gordon Giles, Stephen Miller, Sally Moore, The Revd. Tina Kelsey*

Group C: *Naomi Franks, Sabah Raza (Chair), Lucia Silva-Clark, vacancy x 5*

Group D: *Cllr Ergin Erbil, Cllr James Hockney, Cllr Michael Rye OBE, Clara Seery, Cllr Mahtab Uddin*
Italics denotes absence

Also Attending

PC June Alison Durant – Faith Area Engagement and Hate Crime Coordinator

Pauline Swain – SACRE Administrator

Marianne Page - Minute Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Group A

Apologies for absence were received from Marina Robb.

Group B

Apologies for absence were received from Rvnd Ian Crofts, Jesus Church, Forty Hill

Group D

Apologies for lateness were received from Cllr James Hockney and for early departure from Cllr Michael Rye.

The Chair took the opportunity to report that apologies had been received from Anna Sallnow, RE Consultant, together with her letter of resignation. A farewell letter and card had been received stating how much Anna Sallnow had enjoyed her long relationship with the Enfield SACRE. She had learned so much about cultures, traditions and faith over many years and was disappointed to unavoidably miss this final meeting.

Councillor Michael Rye took the opportunity to record his thanks to Anna Sallnow for her splendid contribution of which he had personal longstanding experience. His words were welcomed by those present.

2. MEMBERSHIP AND WELCOME

Members present and PC June Durrant, Faith Area Engagement and Hate Crime Coordinator were welcomed.

The following amendments to membership were reported by the Chair:

(i) Appointments:

- (a) Hannah Croton – Merryhills Primary School, Teacher representative, Group C
- (b) Cllr Ahmet Hasan – Councillor representative Group D (replacing Cllr Mahtab Uddin)

(ii) Resignations:

- (a) Ruth Serner, Religious Society of Friends, Group A
- (b) Margaret Coleman, Church of England representative, Group B
- (c) Anna Sallnow (Minute 1 above also refers)
- (d) Naomi Franks, Teacher representative, Group C.
The Chair invited members to sign thank you cards for Anna Sallnow and Naomi Franks to mark appreciation for their contribution over some forty years. Naomi Franks, having retired, was no longer eligible to be a teacher representative.

The Chair said she would be sending formal letters of thanks on behalf of SACRE for years of service to Religious Education in Enfield. She also said that consideration would need to be given to filling the RE Consultant role, vacated by Anna Sallnow, perhaps in collaboration with Barnet SACRE who were known to be recruiting at this time. The Chair and Vice-chair, Gordon Giles, would be attending Barnet SACRE in the autumn term with a view to building a working relationship. The Chair had also arranged to visit the Haringey SACRE and would advise PC June Alison Durant of the date.

Actions: Chair

Clerk's note: Cllr Hockney arrived during this item.

(iii) Removal of Members for non-attendance

Members were reminded that if they are absent for 3 or more consecutive meetings for any reason not acceptable to the Council there shall be deemed to be a vacated place to be filled by the appointing body for that member.

- (a) Rabbi Yuval Keren – Judaism representative Group A was welcomed back after some absence
- (b) Sirvan Karakis – Alevi representative Group A
- (c) Major Andrew Gaudion – Salvation Army representative Group A.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2019

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2019 were confirmed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The following issues arose through consideration of the Minutes:

- (i) Item 7 - the Chair explained that each Group had a nominated chairperson to lead their group in discussion and resolve any issues before reaching a conclusion.

Agreed that Cllr James Hockney be the designated chairperson of Group D

- (ii) Item 8(a) – a replacement representative was awaited from the Alevi group
- (iii) Item 8(b) - a request had been made to the Sikh community, however no response had been received

Agreed that the Chair would make a further attempt to fill these vacancies.

Action: Chair

- (iv) Item 8(d) - Marina Robb who had undertaken to follow up the Salvation Army vacancy was not present; Gordon Giles had also tried to follow up the Baptist Church vacancy
Resolved that this item be included on the next agenda

Action: SACRE Administrator/ Gordon Giles/ Marina Robb

- (v) Item 8(e) – Minute 6 below refers
- (vi) Item 8(f) - Clara Seery said that she had spoken with Headteacher representatives who were still deciding on whom to nominate; she undertook to follow this up again
Action: Clara Seery
- (vii) Item 8(h) - the SACRE Administrator would follow up those representatives who had not attended for 3 or more consecutive meetings (Minute 2(iii) above refers)
Action: SACRE Administrator

- (viii) Item 9(a) – confirmed that feedback had been sent to CoRE

- (ix) Item 9(b) – confirmed that Gordon Giles had sent the prepared statement to Anna Sallnow

- (x) Item 10 – confirmed that an additional meeting had been held on 30 April which had been attended by 11 members and had proved worthwhile (Minute 7(i) below refers).

BUSINESS ITEMS

Improving standards in religious education and collective worship

5. FAITH AREA ENGAGEMENT AND HATE CRIME COORDINATOR

PC June Durant was welcomed to the meeting. She introduced her role as the Faith Area Engagement and Hate Crime Coordinator for the Metropolitan Police area of Enfield and Haringey.

June explained that her role also included some work on Counter-terrorism and advised she worked and liaised with communities on how to spot hate crime, how to report it and to show communities what effective policing looked like in different circumstances. She noted Faith groups might need help in support with Anti-social Behaviour. She reported that counter-terrorism abroad was a high security matter which also linked in with June's role and that Home Office funding for security would be open to community applications next month. June said she attends as many community events as possible also together other officers who would be more visible at such events in future. Hate crime could be addressed through education to different cultures. June wished to spread the message of cohesive working to groups already together and was ready to pass on any relevant information to Ward Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers.

The Rvnd. Gordon Giles commented that information sharing worked in both directions and invited June to let members know in what way they could help. June said she was looking for local spaces where conversations could be held to get the message through families. She noted that many police officers observed faith events and explained the benefit of volunteer chaplains being available who could assist with cultural sensitivities and pastoral care. In response to a question of how this would work, June said the idea was that there would be an on-call rota for volunteer chaplains and that often they would not be called at all. The drop-in sessions would be for perhaps 2 hours at a time. In response to a further question she acknowledged that chaplains did not have the same high profile as previously but it was important that there was a process whereby faith communities could support and be supported by the Police. The Metropolitan Police was now organised into 12 Super Boroughs and each had its own Faith Officer.

June said members should not hesitate to contact her and provided her contact details:

Mobile number: 07554 517 009

Email: junealison.durant@met.police.uk

June was warmly thanked for attending and for her presentation and she left the meeting.

6. **REVIEW / AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION**

Reported by the Chair that the Constitution had now been through the Legal process and had been confirmed as in line with statutory requirements. Each member had received a copy with the agenda.

The changes to membership were confirmed as follows:

- (i) Group A – two new faith representatives added namely Alevi and Sikh
- (ii) Group C – two additional teachers added namely Primary increasing from 2 to 3 and Secondary increasing also from 2 to 3
- (iii) Group C – change of designation/ title namely Secondary Headteacher to Secondary Headteacher/Deputy or Assistant Headteacher and Primary Headteacher to Primary Headteacher/ Deputy or Assistant Headteacher
- (iv) Group C – Deletion of representation namely remove Headteacher of a Special School
- (v) Co-opted (non-voting) members – addition of phrase 'and those that hold non-religious world views'

Cllr Michael Rye wished to comment that he felt the representatives should remain at the top tier of Headteacher but acknowledged the difficulty in getting people to attend. Equally it was expected that anyone attending would report back to their schools and that this was better than having long-term vacancies.

7. **SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019 – 2021**

- (i) SACRE Development Plan 2019 -2021

Received the Enfield SACRE Development Plan 2019 - 2021.

The Chair explained that a separate meeting had been held on 30 April 2019 to discuss this. The Chair thanked those who had participated and said the meeting had been successful. It had been

Resolved that the SACRE Development Plan be reviewed in future every two years instead of annually. Members were reminded that Clara Seery, Assistant Director Education, oversaw work done on this by the SACRE. Community Cohesion (CoCo) involved an annual event to promote CoCo and to support work with the Police. An Inter-faith meeting was scheduled for November which PC June Durrant and Cllr James Hockney **agreed** they would liaise on.

Action: PC June Durrant and Cllr James Hockney

(ii) Religious Education (RE) Survey for Schools

The Rvnd. Gordon Giles explained that information would be needed for the SACRE Development Plan. He had prepared two simple '10 question Survey Monkey surveys' aimed at Primary and Secondary schools. Information required included collective worship, role of RE coordinator, visiting speakers, numbers of children withdrawn from RE lessons and RE exam results for secondary schools. Discussion followed as to how the survey should be distributed whilst acknowledging that completion would be on a voluntary basis. In order to obtain as many completed questionnaires as possible it was **resolved** that the survey should

- (a) be addressed to Chairs of Governors copied to Headteachers. This had the potential dual benefit of making Senior Leadership accountable to the Chair of Governors and to also raise the chairs' awareness of RE in their schools
- (b) be sent out in early October with the assistance of the LA's Governor Support Service. Clara Seery said this time line was appropriate to include secondary school RE exam data which, though unvalidated, would provide enough information for conclusions to be drawn. Clara Seery would ask for a reference to the survey to be included in the Termly Pack for Governors
- (c) include an additional RE column for secondary schools' data which would be initially completed in August
- (d) be in addition to the required RE information on all school websites which was more minimal
- (e) be subject to a test run to be sent out to members inviting them to submit comments and improvements to Gordon Giles; in the first instance he was invited to amend grades to numbers as letters were no longer the measure

Actions: Rvnd. Gordon Giles/ Clara Seery/ SACRE Administrator

(iii) Other matters arising from the SACRE Development Plan

- (a) links with Barnet SACRE were in hand to improve collaborative working
- (b) the Chair asked the SACRE Administrator to upload CD ROMs of RE resources onto the website.

Action: SACRE Administrator

- (c) an annual event would be held to be organised by Cllr James Hockney and involving PC June Durant
- (d) a Newsletter to be launched and apply for the RE Quality Mark

Action: Chair

Resolved to agree the SACRE Development Plan 2019 - 2021.

Clerk's note: Cllr Michael Rye left the meeting at this point.

8. FEEDBACK FROM CHAIR ON NASACRE CONFERENCE

The Chair explained that she had attended the NASACRE (National Association of SACREs) in Manchester. It had been planned to be held on the second anniversary of the Manchester stadium bombing. Discussions had included

- (i) setting up an award for Faith Encounter Day and the SACRE coordinator at Newham was identified as a potential advisor on applying for funding for this
- (ii) the use of a 'teddy mascot' with a Christian ethos, as a teaching resource, to promote places of worship for the education of children. **Resolved** that Rabbi Yuval Keren take the teddy mascot named 'Reverend Freddie' to his synagogue to discuss what was different and what was the same about worship. Following this 'Reverend Freddie' would be collected by Dr Bernard Arambepola for use in his Buddhist temple. The Chair said this resource had proved very successful in other SACREs.
- (iii) **Resolved** that an agenda item be included for the next meeting to allocate 10 schools to each member to run a check on what RE information was on the allocated schools' websites.

Action: SACRE Administrator

9. NOTE FROM VICE-CHAIR

Gordon Giles took the opportunity to draw members' attention to a book 'The Desecularisation of the City' the result of research at Durham University and Stanford edited by Goodhew and Cooper. It evidenced the increase in places of worship and numbers attending in London, a world city, which was contrary to perceptions presented by the media. For example, one thousand new churches had opened in Newham and that Southall had the highest observation figures in the world at 80+% attendance.

10. SACRE MEETING DATES – ACADEMIC YEAR 2019 - 2020

Noted the following dates all on Tuesdays:

19 November 2019
11 February 2020
16 June 2020
17 November 2020

The dates had been set in accordance with school terms, religious dates and Council Meetings. However, the dates were subject to full Council approval in accordance with the Municipal Calendar.

Discussion followed about the start time of the meeting. The traditional start time of 5.30pm was historical and had not been reviewed for very many years. An earlier start, even first thing in the morning, might be conducive to enabling more teachers to attend. This might enable schools to host the meeting.

Agreed that this be included as an item for discussion on the next agenda.

Action: SACRE Administrator

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Anna Sallnow's letter of thanks to her colleagues was read out. It reflected how much she had enjoyed learning about traditions, cultures and spirituality.
- (ii) Mervyn Cato, Head of the LA's Behaviour Support Service (BSS) was finding out about any youth activities on offer through the many faith groups in the Borough. Members were warmly invited to keep him informed. He was looking to recruit mentors to work in schools. Members were invited to contact Clara Seery or Pauline Swain on these initiatives.
- (iii) Clara Seery explained that the Sexual Relationship Education would be a part of the curriculum from September 2019 and that there had been some tensions reported in the media. If any members were to become aware of any such issues arising locally, they should be reported to her. The important thing was to work with parents in community groups, so they understood the situation and to be aware of any misinformation. Clara Seery was keen to emphasise that the syllabus was appropriate for everybody.

To note the Autumn term 2019 meeting would be held on:

Tuesday 19 November 2019 starting at 5.30pm
Committee Room 1, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, EN1 3XQ

CLOSE OF MEETING