

**PORTSMOUTH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Friday 12 June 2009 at 3 pm at Moorings Way Infant School, Moorings Way, Southsea.

**Present**

**Group A Representatives**

Geoff Wheeler, Baptist Union  
Ruth Guyer, Judaism  
David Lewis, The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)  
Peter Davies, The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches  
Marilyn Leggett, The Salvation Army  
Christine McMillan, United Reformed Church  
Mrs Ephrat Miller-Foroughi, Bah'a'i Faith  
Chris Robinson, Representing John Lance of the South Hampshire Humanists

**Group B Representative**

Brian Hay, Church of England

**Group C Representative**

Ros Griffiths, Teacher representative  
Roger Bentote, Teachers' Liaison Panel  
Beverley Millsom, Special Teacher representative

**Group D Representatives**

Taki Jaffer, PCC and Portsmouth Interfaith Forum  
Councillor David Horne, PCC  
Councillor Malcolm Hey, PCC

**Co-opted Representatives**

Sue Ganter, Interfusion  
Kieran Anderson, Interfusion  
Emma Eacott, Interfusion

**Officers in Attendance**

Georgina Mulhall, Local Authority Representative  
Teresa Deasy, Democratic & Community Engagement, PCC  
Gareth Brettell, Learning & Access Manager, Portsmouth City Museum

### **13 Apologies for Absence (AI 1)**

Apologies for absence were received from the following –

Councillor David Stephen Butler, Celia Axton, Alan Matthews, the Venerable Dr Trevor Reader, John Lance and Paula Withers. Teresa Deasy explained that Paula Withers, one of the teacher representatives, had apologised for being unable to attend any of the meetings so far. She wished SACRE members to know that this was not because she was not interested in the SACRE but rather because she had genuinely been unable to attend due to other commitments. She had commented that she was keen to be a member of the SACRE and that she would be attending the Development Day.

### **15 Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 March 2009 (AI 2)**

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record.

### **16 Matters Arising from the Minutes (AI 3)**

#### **(a) Minute No 4 – Community Cohesion Presentation by Taki Jaffer**

Teresa Deasy reported that she had obtained a copy of the DCSF Guidance document on community cohesion and had distributed it to all members of the SACRE, as requested. She had also received an electronic copy of Taki Jaffer's presentation and had emailed it to all members of the SACRE.

Brian Hay gave a copy of the Church of England Diocese of Worcester Community Cohesion Booklet to Georgina Mulhall.

#### **(b) Minute No 7 – Action Plan**

Georgina Mulhall reported that John Lance had responded to her email seeking comments on the action plan and she expressed her thanks to him for his comments. She added that Taki Jaffer had provided details of his contacts at Portsmouth University and PCCS, as requested.

Georgina referred to the requirement to update the Faith Directory. She believed that this document should be more of a resource and commented that she had only recently discovered that the Portsmouth Anglican Cathedral workshops had a resource facility. This was an example of a resource that needed to be included in the directory in order to inform teachers and SACRE members.

Following a question from Ruth Guyer about the usage of the RE resource boxes held by the City Museum, Beverly Millsom reported that she had made considerable use of the boxes for her school. She had experienced no problems as they had been delivered as requested and had been extremely satisfactory. However, on one occasion recently there was an item missing from a box. She had written to the Museum to point this out.

## **ACTION**

**Beverley Millsom to give Georgina Mulhall a copy of her letter to the Museum regarding the missing article to enable Georgina to ensure that the article is replaced.**

- (c) **Minute No 6 – South East of England Faith Forum  
Sub-Regional Conference in Newport (Isle of Wight) on Monday  
23 March 2009**

(TAKE IN REPORT ATTACHED TO THE AGENDA)

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

- (d) **Minute No 9 – Newbridge Junior School**

(TAKE IN REPORT)

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

### **17 Sarah McCarthy Fry MP – Response to Questions on RE in Schools (AI 4)**

Councillor David Horne reported that an email had been received only two days ago from the Parliamentary Office Manager to Sarah McCarthy Fry, explaining that Sarah would not be able to attend today's meeting. She apologised for the short notice and explained that the reason was because Sarah had been moved to a different ministerial post following the Government re-shuffle and that she would also be required to attend Parliament today.

Councillor Horne explained also that Sarah McCarthy Fry had spoken to the Department for Children Schools & Families and to the Minister, Diana Johnson MP, who now had responsibility for the policy area being discussed today. Unfortunately, the Minister had prior commitments preventing her from attending this meeting but she would be happy to address any issues raised. Sarah McCarthy Fry's Parliamentary Office Manager suggested that a copy of the minutes of this meeting should be sent to Sarah McCarthy Fry who will then forward it to Diana Johnson for her attention to enable her to provide a full ministerial response.

SACRE members noted the communication from Sarah McCarthy Fry and expressed their disappointment that she was not able to attend today's meeting. They asked for a response to the questions proposed to Sarah McCarthy Fry, as outlined on the agenda, in time for the SACRE's next meeting.

## **ACTION**

**This to be an agenda item for the next meeting.**

## **18 The Jewish Way of Life Exhibition (AI 5)**

Ruth Guyer reminded the SACRE members that the idea of holding this exhibition had been discussed at an earlier meeting but the Committee had to reject the proposal to stage the exhibition in Portsmouth due to lack of funds. It had been suggested that, as the City Council had a twinning link with the City of Haifa in Israel, it might be appropriate to ask the Haifa-Portsmouth Twinning Committee if they would be interested in funding the exhibition.

Ruth Guyer reported that she had approached the Haifa-Portsmouth Friendship Committee regarding the funding and staging of the exhibition in Portsmouth. The Committee had agreed to fund this and Hannah Ashleigh, the Jewish Way of Life Exhibition organiser, had come to Portsmouth and addressed the Committee, giving an explanation of the aims of the exhibition and the requirements for staging it. It had been agreed with Gareth Brettell, the Learning & Access Manager at the City Museum, for the exhibition to be held in the Activities Room of the City Museum for a two week period 5 – 16 July 2010.

Ruth explained that as the city's Haifa Twinning Committee was sponsoring this project, a Haifa element to the exhibition was being incorporated. This would probably include a reference to the history of the Jewish community in Portsmouth, which was one of the oldest in the UK but was now dwindling. Ruth added that she had received a very positive response to the idea of staging the exhibition. Members of the Haifa Committee had agreed to assist in looking after the stands, as had members of the Portsmouth Synagogue. She also asked for help from SACRE members.

Gareth Brettell explained that the Activities Room in the City Museum was used by schools in the city and would provide a good school focus for the exhibition. The exhibition would be particularly aimed at schools and community groups. He added that the Jewish Way of Life Exhibition would link in with other exhibitions which were being held in the City Museum. For example, he mentioned the Game of Life Oral History Exhibition beginning in July of this year.

Georgina Mulhall mentioned that the 23 September had been suggested as a date for a site visit at the Museum. It was agreed that Georgina Mulhall, Ruth Guyer and Gareth Brettell would meet with Hannah Ashleigh of the Jewish Way of Life Exhibition on 23 September at the City Museum.

Beverley Millsom asked whether it would be possible to arrange for schools to combine a visit to the exhibition with a visit to the synagogue on the same day. Ruth Guyer agreed that this was a good idea but there could be some organisational issues. She agreed to look into the possibilities.

## **19 SACRE Local Networking Meeting (AI 6)**

(TAKE IN REPORT)

SACRE members were advised that the next meeting of the SACRE Local Network meeting would be taking place in Portsmouth on 29 June. Each of the SACREs participating in this local group had agreed to take over the organisation of meetings for one academic year. Southampton had organised the inaugural meetings during the last academic year and Portsmouth had taken over for the 2008/2009 academic year. During the 2009/2010 academic year the organisation would pass to one of the other participating SACREs and this was likely to be Hampshire.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

**20 Report for SACRE following Observation of an RE Lesson at St Jude's CE Primary School, Southsea on 29 April 2009 by Brian Hay, Diocesan Schools Advisor**

(TAKE IN REPORT)

SACRE Members discussed the methods of reporting back on school visits by SACRE members. Some members had given informal verbal reports whereas others had provided written reports. Georgina Mulhall advised that visits by SACRE members should be emphasised as a friendly visit. In fact, this matter had been discussed at one of the local network meetings. She repeated her advice to SACRE members visiting schools to make sure that any report given to the SACRE had the approval of the class teacher of the school concerned. She referred to the guidance in the pack which she had produced for SACRE members' school visits. It was generally agreed that both written and verbal reports were equally acceptable.

Taki Jaffer mentioned that he had been unable to make contact with Celia Axton at St Edmunds to arrange a visit to the school as discussed at a previous meeting. Ruth Guyer reported that she would be going to Solent Junior on a school visit.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

**21 SACRE Development Day (AI 8)**

(TAKE IN COPY OF THE PROGRAMME AND INFORMATION)

Georgina Mulhall reported that, in accordance with SACRE's decision at the last meeting to hold a Development Day, she had made arrangements for the day to be held at the Dame Judith Professional Centre on Monday 13 July from 9.15 am to 4 pm.

The theme for the day would be Community Cohesion. Mary Young, Citizenship Consultant to West Sussex and Gareth Brettell, Learning & Access Manager at the City Museum, would be the guest speakers. The Local Authority had agreed to fund the Development Day.

Georgina added that she had also invited head teachers and/or a school representative to the morning session on Community Cohesion to be given by Mary Young. She advised SACRE members that this would provide useful training on community cohesion, which was now part of the curriculum.

Teresa Deasy reported that a total of 12 head teachers had indicated their wish to attend. Seventeen SACRE members had also asked to attend. Georgina advised that accommodation in the room at the Dame Judith Centre was limited and suggested that headteacher attendance numbers should be capped at this stage.

At the end of the meeting three more SACRE members indicated their wish to attend the meeting. Therefore, the total attendance for the day would be 32: composed of 20 SACRE members and 12 head teachers.

## **22 Any Other Business (AI 9)**

### **(a) Membership Matters**

Teresa Deasy reported that co-opted member Terry Carter had been obliged to tender his resignation from SACRE, as he had taken on additional voluntary work and in particular had become the Vice Chair of the Portsmouth LINK. It was agreed that the Chair should write a letter to Terry Carter thanking him for his work with the SACRE.

### **ACTION**

**Teresa Deasy to arrange for a letter to be written on behalf of the Chair.**

### **(b) Youth Representation on the SACRE**

Sue Ganter explained that ,due to its inability to find appropriate funding, the Interfusion Group might not manage to survive. Since its inception, Interfusion had consistently sent two young people to represent it on the Portsmouth SACRE. If Interfusion did not manage to continue, Sue suggested that the SACRE members should consider the future of youth representation on the SACRE.

Beverley Millsom suggested approaching the Council of Portsmouth Students (COPS). However, it was pointed out that this group was not specifically concerned with RE. Kieran Anderson suggested approaching a group called Students in School. He commented that it was important for the youth representatives to be students who were currently studying the Agreed Syllabus.

Taki Jaffer suggested that it would be appropriate to invite pupils in the 14 to 15 year age group. At this age they would be studying the Agreed Syllabus and would have time to develop as members of the SACRE. If the SACRE were to invite pupils in the 16 to 18 age group, due to exam commitments and the fact that they would be leaving school and probably moving away from the area.

A number of suggestions were put forward including sending a questionnaire to teachers in the city to seek their opinions on the best way of achieving youth representation on the SACRE. Eventually, it was agreed to approach the Council of Portsmouth Students to invite them to be represented on the SACRE.

#### **ACTION**

**Georgina Mulhall and Beverley Millsom to approach the Council of Portsmouth Students.**

It was also mentioned that there was one SACRE which involved Year 6 students and that this might be a possibility in Portsmouth.

#### **ACTION**

**Sue Ganter to find out further details and inform Georgina Mulhall.**

The Chair stated, on behalf of the SACRE, that he wished to place on record his thanks to Interfusion for their participation in SACRE meetings.

#### **(c) Clive Erricker, Hampshire RE Advisor**

Sue Ganter reported that Clive Erricker, who had been the RE advisor to the Portsmouth SACRE until two years ago, was retiring from his position as Hampshire RE Advisor in December. It was agreed to send a letter to Clive offering best wishes for his retirement and thanking him for the work that he had done with the Portsmouth SACRE.

#### **ACTION**

**Teresa Deasy to arrange for a letter to be sent on behalf of the Chair.**

### **23 Date of Next Meeting (AI 10)**

Teresa Deasy reported that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 18 October at 4 pm. She had written to those in charge at the Sikh Temple in Margate Road, Southsea requesting that the meeting be held there.

The meeting concluded at 4.50 pm.