

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of **STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** held on Monday, 3 July 2023 at Committee Room 2, County Hall, Matlock, DE4 3AG.

PRESENT

LEA Representatives (Committee D)

Councillors J Bryan, C Dale, N Gourlay and S Swann (In the Chair)

Teacher's Associations (Committee C)

P Crowe, and A Howes

Church of England Representatives (Committee B)

L Seymour

Other Christian and Non-Christian (Committee A)

I Newberry

Co-opted representatives

L Whitney

In attendance - S Ford (Childrens Services) S Gee and M Higton (Legal Services) & I Walters (Commissioning, Communities and Policy)

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of J Clapham, Cllr R Flatley K Gibbs, D Hammond, N Hoskin – Stone, N O'Callaghan and A .Rehman.

8/23 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (IF ANY)

There were no declarations of interest.

9/23 TO CONFIRM THE NON-EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SACRE HELD ON 20 MARCH 2023

RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the SACRE held on 20 March 2023.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

10/23 DISCUSSION WITH HIGH SHERIFF OF DERBYSHIRE

Theresa Peltier, High Sherriff of Derbyshire attended the meeting and

provided members with details of her background and a brief history of the role of the High Sherriff and also the work she was planning and had already undertaken since being appointed as Derbyshire's first black female High Sherriff in April 2023.

The role of the High Sheriff dated back to Saxon times, and historically was responsible to the Monarch for the maintenance of law and order within their county. Theresa explained that she had 27 years' experience across 3 police forces, prior to her retirement in 2019 as Head of Equality for Derbyshire Police. The relationships she has formed over the years had enabled her to have continued engagement with the judiciary in her role as High Sheriff.

Theresa explained that she was extremely honoured to be installed as the High Sheriff of Derbyshire in April 2023, and that her strap line was 'Unity is Community'. She outlined the four key areas of focus during her 12 months in office.

She will be looking to shine a spotlight on the large deaf community within Derbyshire. The 2021 census still shows that Derbyshire has the largest deaf community proportionate to the UK population, with 400+ recorded as using BSL as their first language. This figure doesn't include those who are deaf or hard of hearing who are non-BSL users.

She will also have a focus on women in prison, linking with the governor of Foston Hall Prison in Derbyshire, a closed category prison and young offenders institute for women aged 18 years and over, and the recently formed Friends of Foston Hall.

As the first Black High Sheriff of the county to take up office, it holds particular significance, as the year also marks the 75th anniversary of HMT Empire Windrush arriving at Tilbury Docks in 1948. Supporting her partner George, they will be paying tribute to those from the Windrush Generation who have made a significant contribution to the county of Derbyshire, with an exhibition planned later in the year at County Hall

Having personal experience of adoption, for many years Theresa has sat on adoption and fostering panels, an area she is deeply passionate about. She is a vice-chair for both Adoption East Midlands and Derby City Fostering and hopes to encourage others to consider fostering and adoption. She explained that whilst there were no guarantees, she believed love, nurture, boundaries, and structure provided the best possible environment to support a child to be the best they can be.

Theresa offered an open invite to all SACRE members to attend her Legal Service on Sunday 8 October at Derby Cathedral.

SACRE members were given the opportunity to make comments and ask questions which were duly noted or answered by Theresa.

The Chairman thanked Theresa for her most informative and interesting presentation

RESOLVED to note the presentation and that the Derbyshire SACRE formally support and endorse the work Theresa would be undertaking during her time in office.

11/23 BROKEN INSTRUMENTS - DERBY THEATRE PRODUCTION

Broken Instruments was a musical Journey towards a better and peaceful future.

Bill Varnam, who had written the musical attended the meeting and gave a presentation to SACRE members.

Broken Instruments has been inspired by 'Violins of Hope', written by James Grymes, which told the moving stories of Jewish musicians and their instruments during World War II.

The story was about Holocaust survivor, violin restorer and violinist Ari Vander and followed his life before, during and after World War II. It talks of his experiences and the people he met on that journey. It was very much a story of triumph in extreme adversity and the rebuilding of a hopeless situation into something beautiful.

Bill explained that the musical Broken Instruments was a story of survival, made possible through the power of music.

There was something profound about a beautifully played instrument, especially when you learn that it bears no grudge against those who would have its player cruelly treated and incarcerated.

"In loving hands, a violin becomes a marriage between the player and the instrument itself."

Featuring live music, storytelling, and original songs, we hear the recollections of musician, luthier, and Holocaust survivor Ari Vander. Join him as he turns back the pages of his life and offers a message of hope for a better future for us all.

"Life will have its crushing moments, but when people come together, they can be overcome."

Members were given the opportunity to make observations or ask questions which were duly noted or answered by Bill.

Details were given on several upcoming local performances and the production would also be performed at the Edinburgh Festival.

An event was proposed for 3 September in Wirksworth where it was hoped that a performance of Broken Instruments would take place to which SACRE Members would be invited. Details of the event would follow in due course

The Chairman thanked Bill for his most interesting and informative presentation

RESOLVED to note the presentation

12/23 UPDATE ON THE FUTURE OF SACRE

Steve Ford informed the meeting that the central Government Grant for the Education Improvement Service ceased in March 2023 and active discussions were ongoing for the future of the service.

In conclusion, it was generally agreed that the future of SACRE's was uncertain and that over the coming months Derbyshire and Derby City SACRE's needed to continue with these discussions on what the way forward was and more detailed work be carried out in relation to succession planning though it was felt vitally important that someone with local knowledge was required to carry this forward with the ongoing support of RE Today Services.

Work also needed to commence on the developing the School Improvement Plan and the Agreed Syllabus

RESOLVED to note the update

The meeting finished at 3.00 pm