

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education on Wednesday
1st February 2017 at the Floral Pavilion, New Brighton**

Present:

Ms Zoe Abernethy	Group A
Mr Paul Barrett	Group A
Ms Rachel Razbully (Chair)	Group C
Mr Steven Baker	Group C
Ms Helen O'Brien	Group C

In attendance: Mrs M Landor, RE Advisor
Mrs J Sherlock, Clerk

Guests: Rebecca Heron from Remembering Srebrenica

Apologies Received:

Ms Anna Keegan	Group B
Ms J Lewtas	Group C
Ms Colleen Hibbard	Group C
Councillor Wendy Clements	Group D

MRS MARION LANDOR IN THE CHAIR

Agenda Item 1	Welcome and Apologies for Absence	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs Marion Landor welcomed members and guests to the meeting and introduced the new clerk to SACRE, Mrs Janet Sherlock. Mrs Landor expressed grateful thanks to the previous clerk, Anne Lightfoot, for all her hard work. 	
Conclusions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance and apologies were received and accepted by the members. 	
Actions	Person Responsible	Deadline
Attendance records / membership	Janet Sherlock	

Agenda Item 2	GUEST SPEAKER Rebecca Heron from Remembering Srebrenica
Discussion:	<p>Ms Heron introduced herself as the Education Manager for Remembering Srebrenica and thanked Wirral SACRE for the invitation to speak at the meeting.</p> <p>Ms Heron advised that Remembering Srebrenica was set up in the UK in 2013 to commemorate the genocide, to learn lessons and build more cohesion; funds are available to take people out to Bosnia to see the area and meet survivors. The organisation also has 800 community champions, including Mr S Baker, who have pledged to make a positive difference and raise awareness.</p> <p>Ms Heron stated that there had been an EU mandate to make 11 July the National Day of Commemoration and 200 events had been held in the previous year.</p> <p>Ms Heron explained that the organisation works with schools, universities and youth groups and has produced a book which includes the 10 stages of genocide, as survivors have stated that genocide doesn't start with killing; this is Step 9 and much happens before this, so there is a need to be vigilant and try to put a stop to it early.</p>

	<p>Ms Heron added that the organisation has produced a one-hour workshop of the 10 Stages of Genocide for schools, which will be ready later in the year for Years 8 and 9 onwards; this should be in plenty of time for the commemoration in July 2017. Ms Heron explained that teachers believe that teaching the subject is complicated; there are timetable pressures and there is a lot to explain, so the resources use maps and videos and the 10 stages; this is intended as a PHSE resource rather than history, so that lessons are learned about valuing what people have in common rather than their differences to create a cohesive community and also to teach pupils to be critical of information and not to take it at face value. Ms Heron added that there are also Primary resources available, again based on looking for similarities rather than differences, providing an activity and a story on this theme and how it makes for a better community.</p> <p>Mrs M Landor added that this is relevant for pupils compared to the Holocaust, as even though it happened 20 years ago, the images are contemporary as the photos are in colour and the area is not far away.</p> <p>Ms Heron stated that there are assembly packs available for July; pupils can make a pledge to stand up to hatred and understand the dangers and the consequences when it's not stopped; there is also a football tournament, the 8372 Tournament, taking place and schools are invited to hold a match on 12th July 2017, starting with one minute's silence and ending with the pledge of commitment.</p> <p>Ms Heron advised that Remembering Srebrenica also has a YouTube channel with available videos including one on the 10 stages of genocide.</p> <p>Ms Heron stated that the charity would help and support schools as much as it could.</p> <p>Ms Heron handed out some copies of the organisation's publication, Remembering Srebrenica. Ms Heron also distributed a handout, listing resources which are available free from their website, plus some memory sticks which contained these learning resources.</p> <p>Mrs M Landor suggested that it would be good to send out a letter to head teachers advising them of the availability of these resources. Mr S Baker suggested sending an email to Mr Andy Davis (Primary Schools' Representative) and Mr Phil Sheridan (Secondary Schools' Representative)</p> <p>Mr Baker recommended that adults look at the website as there are funds available for them to visit.</p> <p>Mrs R Razbully and Mrs M Landor thanked Ms Heron for attending the meeting and also for providing valuable resources.</p>	
Conclusions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Actions	Person Responsible	Deadline

Agenda Item 3	Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st September 2016	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs M Landor thanked Ms Helen O'Brien for taking the minutes of the previous meeting. • The minutes from the meeting had been circulated in advance and were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. 	
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate account by members present. Proposed by Ms Zoe Abernethy, seconded by Mr Steven Baker. 	
Actions	Person Responsible	Deadline

Agenda Item 4	SACRE Annual report and Action Plan	
Discussion:	<p>Mrs M Landor advised that most of the action plan for this year has been met; the rest will roll into the next report. Mrs R Razbully and Mrs M Landor will keep SACRE members informed of what goes into the new report and asked members to submit any ideas and actions for the future.</p> <p>Mr S Baker suggested developing more links with Remembering Srebrenica and including items about genocides in other parts of the world.</p> <p>Mrs Landor asked whether there was the possibility of inviting a survivor from Srebrenica to an open meeting that teachers could attend. Mr Baker advised that speakers visit the UK regularly, particularly around Memorial Day which is 11th July, and are captivating speakers; if speakers were already in the UK this would help with funding. Ms R Razbully offered the facilities at Wirral Grammar for Boys as part of their community programme.</p> <p>Ms R Heron advised that speakers travel around the UK during the national commemorations, but this is a very busy time for them; however they also visit at different points throughout the year to do talks to schools which are part-funded by universities.</p> <p>Mrs Landor asked whether schools can organise a speaker directly through Remembering Srebrenica and Ms Heron agreed that this was possible. Mrs Landor suggested putting information with links onto the SACRE website.</p> <p>Mrs Landor advised that there had previously been close links with the multicultural centre in Birkenhead and one of their members had attended SACRE meetings; however their funding has now gone and there is a need to replace this vital work for acceptance of refugees; this should be flagged in the Action Plan.</p> <p>Mrs R Razbully stated that she will approach Mrs S Talbot about funding for a Youth SACRE and, together with Ms H O'Brien, she will produce a flyer that WYFC can take into schools when they visit.</p>	
Conclusion		
Actions	Person Responsible	Deadline

Agenda Item 5	Updates and Event Feedback	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holocaust Memorial <p>Mrs M Landor stated that she had had concerns beforehand that the memorial should have been held in a smaller venue. However she was now satisfied that the venue was suitable and several schools had sent good numbers of pupils; there were over 500 pupils in attendance.</p> <p>Mrs Landor added that there had been an issue with schools where the member of staff who had previously organised their school attendance had moved on and nobody</p>	

	<p>has taken over. Mrs Landor stated that some schools had brought fewer pupils than they had indicated so had not used all of their seat allocation; this had led to an issue with empty rows and if this information had been known in advance other schools could have been moved forward. It was agreed to make schools aware next year that they should provide accurate numbers in advance.</p> <p>Mrs Landor asked whether perhaps all head teachers should be invited to the event and Ms Razbully suggested that Wirral Metropolitan College and Birkenhead Sixth Form College could be invited. Mr Baker stated that he knew all the head teachers on Wirral and could speak at their meeting in December; invitations to head teachers would provide a line of accountability. Mr Baker also suggested contacting faith groups. Mrs Landor advised that there had previously been ordained members of Wirral SACRE but not at present.</p> <p>Mrs Landor was pleased to note that some home educated pupils had attended.</p> <p>Mr Baker asked whether any members of the public had attended. Mrs Landor stated that some had and that there had been a press release which, as far as she was aware, was in the Wirral Globe, the Liverpool Echo and on Radio Merseyside.</p> <p>Members agreed that Mr Rudi Oppenheimer had been a very inspiring speaker. Mr S Baker asked whether there would be an alternative plan in future if no holocaust survivor were available. Mrs Landor stated that HET will send a speaker for as long as it is possible to do so, but if none is available there are survivors from other, more recent genocides.</p> <p>Mrs Landor stated that the Mayor had been excellent and should also be invited next year when he is no longer Mayor. Mrs R Razbully stated that the Mayor had asked whether his speech was too political; members thought that this was not the case.</p> <p>Mr Baker asked for gratitude to be recorded to Mr Ben Parker, as he had done an excellent job with the IT for the memorial yet again. Mrs Landor added thanks to Deirdre Smith, who had provided transport to and from Liverpool for Mr Oppenheimer.</p> <p>Concerns were expressed about whether schools were allowing enough time for staff to carry out their SACRE roles.</p> <p>Mrs M Landor advised that she would write a letter of thanks to Mr Oppenheimer and also give information to Jane Owens for inclusion in the next newsletter.</p>	
Conclusion		
Actions	Person Responsible	Deadline

Agenda Item 6	Items of Correspondence	
Discussion:	<p>The Clerk advised that there were no items of correspondence.</p> <p>Future emails sent from NASACRE will be forwarded to members, together with login details for their website.</p>	
Actions	Person Responsible	Deadline
Forward NASACRE	The clerk	Before the next meeting.

details.		
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Agenda Item 7	Keynote Speaker Suggestions for Next Meeting	
Discussion:	It was noted that Mr Ian McKenzie had previously offered to host the May meeting in the meeting room of Holy Cross in Woodchurch. However Mr McKenzie was not at the meeting.	
Actions	Person Responsible	Deadline
Contact Mr I McKenzie to confirm date and venue of next meeting.	The Clerk	As soon as possible

Agenda Item 8	ANY OTHER BUSINESS		
Discussion:	• None		
Actions	Person Responsible	Deadline	
None			

SPECIAL NOTES	The meeting was quorate throughout and finished at 5:10pm.
DATES FOR THE NEXT MEETINGS	The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 th May 2017 in the meeting room of Holy Cross in Woodchurch, subject to confirmation by Mr I McKenzie who was not at the meeting.

Signed..... Ms R Razbully (Chair) Date.....