



Cyfarfod Pwyllgor Gwaith Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru/
Wales Association of SACREs Executive Committee meeting

Dydd Mawrth, 4 Chwefror 2014, 12.30 City United Reform
Church, Caerdydd / Tuesday, 4 February 2014, 12.30 pm at City
United Reform Church, Cardiff

Minutes

Present: Tania ap Sion (Chair), Libby Jones (Secretary), Edward Evans, Phil Lord, Bethan James, Vicky Thomas.

1. Croeso / *Welcome* Chair, Tania ap Sion welcomed members to the meeting in Cardiff and thanked those present for their attendance.
2. Ymddiheuriadau / *Apologies* Gavin Craigen, Mary Parry, Michael Gray, Mark Brown, Rheinallt Thomas.
3. Cofnodion cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith diwethaf (4/10/2013) / *Minutes of the last executive meeting (4/10/2013)*. Members accepted the minutes as a true record of the meeting, proposed by Phil Lord and seconded by Vicky Thomas.
4. Materion yn codi / *Matters arising*. Item 8. Bethan James enquired whether a meeting had been arranged with Nia Mair Jones from Welsh Government. Tania ap Sion is waiting to hear from Nia in this regard. Members agreed to make a list of areas to discuss with her at the meeting.

1. Estyn Thematic Review for the primary sector. We would still like that to move forward on this following the success of the secondary review. The initial agreement with the Minister was for both a primary and secondary review. 2. National Model for Regional Working - Implications with regard to RE and SACREs. Vicky Thomas proposed that WASACRE ask Welsh Government to write a letter or give a formal statement to SACREs, consortia and Local Authorities to remind them of their statutory duties for Religious Education and Collective worship. Particularly emphasising that ultimately the responsibility lies with LAs even if they are using consortia working as a way to service SACREs. Phil Lord suggested using the recommendations from the Welsh Government Review of SACRE reports as evidence and Bethan James suggested also highlighting the recommendations from the Estyn Thematic review. A clear steer is required from Welsh Government in time for April 1st. 3. Curriculum Review. Can Religious Education be included in Phase two? If not, what is the position of RE within the curriculum and how will the current guidance documents be affected. 4. Foundation Phase document - What is the current status of this document?

5. Cofnodion cyfarfod CCYSAGauC, 10 Hydref 2013 / *Minutes of the WASACRE meeting, 10 October 2013*. Members approved the minutes for circulation in the papers for the WASACRE meeting in March.
6. Hyfforddiant a chymorth ar gyfer athrawon ac ysgolion / *Training and support for teachers and schools*. Vicky Thomas pointed to the recommendations from the Estyn Thematic Review as evidence for there being a need for training for teachers of Religious Education. For example, Self Evaluation, Continued Professional Development and boys' achievement are all areas needing support. Literacy and numeracy in RE, development of the three RE skills and making tasks more challenging, especially for more able and talented pupils would also be useful topics/themes on which to focus training opportunities. Bearing in mind the imminent changes to the curriculum, training offered in the use of higher order skills in RE possibly within the proposed 'Rich tasks' would also be of benefit to teachers and schools. Bethan James proposed that we plan training over a two or three year period to ensure better focus and to cover breadth of need for both Primary and Secondary schools. Phil Lord suggested that we need to move on this and agreeing

on an initial topic, date and location would be useful. With regard to funding members discussed the idea of asking Consortia to support the training by offering free services e.g. venue etc. This highlighted the importance of having LA representation at WASACRE meetings in order to establish links and forge good working partnerships with Local Councillors. Members agreed to ask Treasurer, John Mitson how much the WASACRE Conference cost in October and what budget WASACRE would be able to work with to deliver training in the future. The following points were also discussed: charging schools a small contribution for training; importance of buying people in to deliver training to ensure that we do not over stretch current members who have delivered training in the past free of charge. Tania ap Sion suggested having an official budget meeting to discuss these areas to which members agreed. This would also be another question for our Welsh Government contact, Nia Mair Jones.

7. Cymorth ar gyfer CCYSAGau: monitro addoli ar y cyd / *Support for SACREs monitoring collective worship*. Discussed under previous Items.
8. Adolygiad thematig Estyn: prif negeseuon / *Estyn Thematic Review: Key messages*. Discussed under previous Items.
9. Pwyllgor Gwaith a Chyfansoddiad CCYSAGauC / *WASACRE Executive Committee and Constitution* We note that usual practice is to have nominations by 1 March, but due to a late Easter and that some SACREs are meeting later in the term, the deadline for nominations needs to be extended. Members agreed that SACREs would be asked to return their nominations for the Executive committee by Friday 28 March. Libby Jones will write to SACREs in this regard. Members agreed that nominations would be sent out to SACREs for their perusal and selection by 28 April. Advice is being sort from the legal departments of LAs on what to do in the event of a tie in votes (Edward Evans to follow up this line of enquiry). The Executive accepted the majority vote, offering Cllr Michael Gray as Executive member.
10. Adolygu'r Cwricwlwm Llywodraeth Cymru a'r ymateb CCYSAGauC / *Welsh Government Curriculum Review and WASACRE response*. Chair, Tania ap Sion thanked those members who met to discuss and produce the WASACRE (and NAPfRE) response to the Curriculum Review consultation in Newtown in January 2014. The WASACRE response was submitted on time (and circulated in the Executive Committee papers) and members involved also sent their own response and responses from the SACREs they represent. We will await the publication of the outcome of the consultation. Bethan James raised the point that there will be a Phase Two with a very quick turnaround and WASACRE and NAPfRE need to be aware of this and respond in the same way. Members agreed to put this on the NAPfRE agenda in Powys. Libby Jones will contact John Mitson as Clerk of Powys SACRE for confirmation of venue and date for the summer meeting and circulate to Executive members.
11. Trafodaethau gyda Newyddion Addysg Grefyddol a MAGC / *Conversations with RE News and REMW*. This needs to be followed up. No correspondence received from RE News or REMW. The initial conversation took place on 6 June 2013. Vicky Thomas suggested a short meeting could take place at lunch time at the Caerphilly meeting to discuss any follow up, if responses have been received. Tania ap Sion confirmed that she will email the bodies involved to ask if there is any feedback from their respective meetings.
12. REQM: newyddion diweddaraf gan Phil Lord / *REQM: up-date from Phil Lord*. The bilingual resources for the Welsh RE quality mark are now on the REQM Website on the Wales section, including the Wales flyer and bilingual pupil questionnaires for primary and secondary schools. Phil Lord showed members the website and how to navigate it. Six people went through the assessors' training, but are awaiting interview and selection before they can start assessing schools. Phil is currently the only assessor in Wales, but hopes that there will be six more very soon. Phil will be attending the REQM conference on Saturday 8 February 2014. Tania ap Sion thanked Phil for all his work on this. Phil has agreed to give a short presentation at the WASACRE meeting in Caerphilly on 27 March 2014.

13. Cynrychioli CCYSAGauC: Cyngor AG ac EFTRE / *WASACRE representation: RE Council England and Wales, EFTRE*. The REC board are talking about how Wales is represented in their organisation. In Gavin's absence we have no feedback yet. WASACRE will follow that up as appropriate.

Mary Parry can no longer take the position on EFTRE and so we are looking for a WASACRE (Wales) representative for this body. WASACRE have agreed to fund travel expenses for the meetings. The representative would be committed to attending one board meeting per year and representing Wales in the conference every three years. Tania ap Sion asked members to consider this and get back to her with any names.

14. Adolygiad o Adroddiadau CYSAGau gan y Llywodraeth Cymru / *Welsh Government Review of SACRE Reports*. This document has been published recently and can now be shared with our SACREs. Phil Lord noted that Welsh Government gave recognition in the report to Advisors and those servicing and supporting SACREs. This service/function has now been significantly reduced in LAs and this has a significant effect on SACREs, which are a statutory responsibility of all Local Authorities. Edward Evans proposed writing to Welsh Government to ask how this good practice can be continued under the current consortia arrangements. It was clarified that SACRE Annual Reports needed to be submitted to both the Welsh Government and WASACRE. Libby Jones will circulate the Welsh Government review of SACRE reports to all SACRE clerks.

15. *Gohebiaeth / Correspondance*

1. *Cross Party Group on Faith*. Phil Lord has been invited to represent WASACRE on this group. Their aim is to inform Assembly Members on issues around faith in Wales. They have approximately 28 people attending. Tania ap Sion thanked Phil for offering to attend this meeting and members supported this as they agreed it is a good forum for WASACRE to be placed.
2. *Tony Blair Foundation- Face to Faith project*. The Foundation contacted WASACRE to help them promote this project further in Wales. Libby Jones sent out information relating to it to SACREs, including a PDF and links to their website, suggesting that they share it with their schools. Members supported this initiative and referred to the presentation made by Face to Faith at a previous WASACRE meeting, which was well received by members.
3. *WASACRE translation*. Tania ap Sion thanked Wyn Hobson for his translation services to WASACRE over the years. Libby Jones will send a letter of thanks to Mr Hobson on behalf of WASACRE for his services. Tania ap Sion will approach Garmon Davies to ask if he would be able to take over the translation service for WASACRE.

16. *Agenda ar gyfer cyfarfod y Gymdeithas yn Nghaerffili yn 27 Mawrth 2014 / Agenda for the Association meeting in Caerphilly on 27 March 2014*. Arrangements for the meeting have been made with Emma Sullivan, Clerk to Caerphilly SACRE. Venue for the meeting is Ty Penalta.

17. *U.F.A. / A.O.B. REC for England and Wales AGM- Arrangements and details*. WASACRE needs to be appropriately represented at this meeting. The meeting has been arranged and booked by WASACRE on behalf of the RE Council. Huw Lewis AM will be present and has sponsored the event, which will be held in Cardiff at the Pierhead building. Tania ap Sion thanked Edward Evans for his help with this.

18. *Dyddiad cyfarfod nasaf y Pwyllgor Gwaith / Date of the next Executive meeting*

14 May 2014. Llandrindod Wells, Media Resources Centre (this venue will be confirmed).