



**Cyfarfod Pwyllgor Gwaith Cymdeithas CYSAG au Cymru/  
Wales Association of SACREs Executive Committee meeting**

**19/5/17, Eglwys Ddiwygiedig Unedig Caerdydd, 12.30  
19/5/17, Cardiff United Reformed Church, 12.30**

**Members present:**

Officers- Phil Lord, Paula Webber, Libby Jones, Edward Evans  
NAPfRE Representative- Bethan James  
Elected Members- Mary Parry, Vicky Thomas and Gill Vaisey

1. **Croeso / Welcome** - Chair, Phil Lord welcomed members to the meeting in Cardiff.
2. **Ymddiheuriadau / Apologies** - John Mitson, Huw Stevens, Cllr Ernie Galsworthy, Tania ap Sion
3. **Cofnodioncyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaithdiwethaf (1/2/2017) / Minutes of the last Executive meeting (1/02/2017)**  
The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.
4. **Materionyncodi / Matters arising**

**Item 4.** EE wrote to the Minister. The Minister confirmed that statutory powers relating to education in Wales are devolved and are not reserved to Westminster.

**Item 4.** Following consultation and significant amendments, including a section written by Shaun Evans-Pask who gave a presentation in the last Executive meeting, the Withdrawal Document has been completed in English and is to be sent for translation into Welsh.

**Item 4.** Lead Practitioners have been contacted and will be giving presentations at the AGM in Wrexham and at Bridgend meeting in the autumn.

**Item 7. Action 1** Completed – WASACRE agreed that the Executive committee has the authority to commission work.

**Action 2:** Phil Lord did some work on the aims of WASACRE and went through it with the committee as item 6 on the agenda. Amendments were made which Phil will complete to finalise the document before it is shared more widely and scrutinised further.

**Action 3:** V T was unable find examples of how ESIS used to commission work.

**Item 8. Action 1:** Completed. GV wrote to David Heath (not Pauline Smith) who provided some clarification with some points of legislation. The issue of the possible inaccuracy of some references in Circular 10/94 which she had questioned remains unresolved. GV suggested that it was not worth pursuing these points at this stage with pending changes in the curriculum and possible legislation.

GV advised that she had removed any references in the Withdrawal Guidance document that could not be verified.

**Action 2:** Completed - Executive members attended a meeting with the Minister for Education and Skills on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017. Notes have been presented to the Executive Committee.

**Action 3 & 4:** Completed - NAPfRE and WASACRE representatives to attend a planning meeting with Welsh Government in March. Notes have been presented to the Executive Committee.



**Item 10: Action 1:** Completed - Contact details of Phil Lord, as Chair, and Paula Webber, as Secretary, have been need to be updated on the WASACRE Website.

**Action 3:** - Ongoing – LJ and PW have been communicating with Clerks to SACRE with regards to missing reports. They have been informed to send them to Abi Williams at Welsh Government. LJ will continue to follow this up.

**Item 11:** GV represented WASACRE at the EFTRE Conference in Athens.

**5. Cofnodioncyfarfod CCYSAGauC, 3/3/17 / Minutes of the WASACRE meeting, 3/3/17 2016**

**ACTIONS:**

1. PW to summarise some of the main points of the meeting and note actions and PL will check for accuracy.
2. EE suggested that we look at the withdrawal document and agenda an item in a future exec meeting on collective worship.

**6. Protocol regarding executive members undertaking work for or on behalf of WASACRE**

The draft document, *WASACRE Guidelines for Commissioning Work*, written by PL was read, discussed and amended. A discussion ensued on the nature of commissioned work undertaken on behalf of WASACRE. It was noted that all such work should fulfil the aims and objectives of WASACRE. Discussion included what might happen if work needed to be commissioned in between executive meetings and the copyright of finished products. BJ and MP expressed the thanks of the Exec to PL for drafting the document.

**7. Feedback from recent meetings/events:**

Notes, minutes and documents were received for the following were received by Executive Members.

- a. Religious Diversity in Primary Schools resources and event 30/3/17
- b. Kirsty Williams – 2/3/17 Members raised the issue of whether there is protocol for writing up meetings of a Minister?
- c. RE planning meeting -27/3/17
- d. RE stakeholder meeting 12/4/17
- e. Humanities AOLE group meeting 02/05/17

**8. Discussion on questions for the forthcoming meeting with Estyn**

Executive members discussed the following:

- How WASACRE and Estyn could work together to monitor RE in schools.
- The issue of schools meeting statutory requirements for Religious Education.
- The monitoring role of SACREs and the issue of collating of evidence that schools may not be meeting their statutory duty.
- Inspection reports stating that all statutory requirements are being met. Estyn only being required to say if statutory requirements are not met. The evidence from the Welsh Baccalaureate Survey conducted by WASACRE that not all



schools are complying. There is concern that Estyn may not have picked it up on this in some visits.

- There was a discussion on what might be done to monitor schools not fulfilling statutory requirements as consortia say it is the responsibility of the local authority to monitor RE. It was noted that where schools are not complying, it is for local authorities to follow through.
- There are examples of how this can be done well e.g. in Carmarthenshire where MP is able to go into schools to in a monitoring role. Some suggestions raised were that post inspection action plans could be shared with SACREs.
- It was felt that WASACRE and Estyn could have an open dialogue in this and be mutually supportive of one another. And it was suggested that Estyn be to advise us on what evidence is looked at in inspection week so that schools could be prepared for inspection. For example, do Estyn look at the Agreed Syllabus in inspections?

### **9. WASACRE Training opportunities**

- Discussion on possible future training opportunities using the vehicle for publicity, marketing and venues offered by Cath Dell and Karen Mills. If was to be used then WASACRE could provide the speaker for training.
- Executive members suggested that such events should go out via SACREs.
- There is a need to consider ways to deliver the training that teachers need.
- There will be a need to think about Big Ideas when developing training.

### **10. Gwefan CCYSAGauC /WASACRE Website**

This will be on the agenda for next meeting.

### **11. Gohebiaeth / Correspondence**

*i. The letter received from Christine Abbas on behalf of the Baha'i* was discussed. Christine's valuable contribution to SACREs and WASACRE was noted by Executive Members. Members read the letter with interest and recognised the need to ensure that RE is more than phenomenology as it is not just about facts and information.

During this discussion GV reported that she had attended the REC meeting at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden. An aim of the day was to give every member a voice that the REC commission group could hear. Everyone had an input. GV reported that it was fascinating to hear different views. She noted that a small number of people had very strong concerns that the quality of RE in schools was tokenistic and possibly being taught by people who had little understanding of what faith is for believers. These people, therefore, were of the view that we shouldn't have RE in schools. One was speaking from the perspective of being a Hindu parent. He was concerned that his children were being told that we are all born sinners. He stated this was in complete contradiction to him teaching his children that all people are born divine. One member of the Jain community suggested his community felt marginalised. It came to light that some faith communities are feeling that there are big organisations that are being heard and the smaller communities are feeling



marginalised. GV suggested that we should be concerned at such views and feelings as so much progress had been made in the teaching of Religious Education generally. Clearly, some people's experiences of Religious Education are still not as they should be.

It was felt that WASACRE should have a considered response to the letter from Chris Abbas.

**12. Agenda argyfercyfarfod y Gymdeithas (Wrexham), 7 Gorffennaf 2017 /  
*Agenda for the Association meeting (Wrexham), 7 July 2017***

The draft agenda for the WASACRE meeting in Wrexham was received and discussed.

**13. U.F.A. / A.O.B**

NAPfRE to discuss Big Ideas in Religious Education. The University of Exeter are working on this as a part of a group of experts. This is being presented in July at the AREIAC Conference in York. LJ offered to give time to this work during the summer.

**ACTIONS:**

- i. GV will make enquiries as to whether the document could be circulated.
- j. Members to read the Big Ideas documents.

**14. Dyddiadcyfarfodnesaf y PwyllgorGwaith / *Date of the next Executive meeting:***

Autumn –27/09/2017 in Llandrindod.

Spring –TBC