



**Notice of a public meeting of
Children, Education and Communities Policy and Scrutiny
Committee**

To: Councillors Baker (Chair), Webb (Vice-Chair), Daubeney, Fenton, Fitzpatrick, Heaton and Barker

Date: Tuesday, 5 January 2021

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: Remote Meeting

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point, Members are asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which they may have in respect of business on this agenda

2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2020.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee.

Please note that our registration deadlines have changed to 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at remote meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is at 5.00pm on Friday

31 December 2020.

To register to speak please visit www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill out an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting please contact the Democracy Officer for the meeting whose details can be found at the foot of the agenda.

Webcasting of Remote Public Meetings

Please note that, subject to available resources, this remote public meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The remote public meeting can be viewed live and on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

During coronavirus, we've made some changes to how we're running council meetings. See our coronavirus updates (www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy) for more information on meetings and decisions.

4. 2020/21 Finance Second Quarter Monitoring (Pages 7 - 12) Report

This report analyses the latest performance for 2020/21 and forecasts the financial outturn position by reference to the service plans and budgets for all of the services falling under the responsibility of this committee.

5. Safeguarding Report

Maggie Atkinson, Independent Scrutineer will present the Safeguarding Report to the Committee. **[Report to follow]**

6. SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) Annual Report (Pages 13 - 18)

This report provides Members with details of the work of SACRE from January to December 2020.

7. Work Plan

To receive the committee workplan including the Commissioned Scrutiny meeting with Economy and Place Policy and Scrutiny Committee on 1 February 2021.

8. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer

Angela Bielby

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- Email – a.bielby@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Children, Education and Communities Policy And Scrutiny Committee
Date	1 December 2020
Present	Councillors Baker (Chair), Webb (Vice-Chair), Daubeney, Fenton, Fitzpatrick, Heaton and Barker [from 17:41]

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair welcomed all to the Commissioned Scrutiny meeting. Introductions were made.

Members were asked to declare, at this point in the meeting, any personal interests, not included on the Register of Interests, or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they may have in respect of business on the agenda. None were declared.

59. MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 26 February 2020 be approved as a correct record and then signed by the Chair at a later date.

The Vice Chair noted that the last meeting was pre the COVID-19 pandemic and noted that the workplan would have changed since then. This was acknowledged by the Chair who added that it would be discussed under that agenda item.

[Cllr Barker joined the meeting at 17:41]

60. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

61. VOLUNTARY SECTOR WORK/ACTIVITY

Members welcome the Chief Executive of York Centre for Voluntary Services (CVS), the Chief Officer (Age UK) and the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust (JRHT) Partnerships Manager (Communities) and the Centre Manager of Door 84. Also in attendance at the meeting from City of York Council was the Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Communities, Corporate Director People, Assistant Director Communities and Culture, Head of Commissioning and Commissioning Manager.

The JRHT Partnerships Manager (Communities) explained his role and gave a presentation from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) and JRHT on the 'Impacts of the pandemic in the voluntary sector – learning from national briefings and local networking November 2020.' He noted that the presentation was originally written to inform the work of the JRHT York Committee as a local funder of the York voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector. During his presentation the monthly briefings from April which identified pressures on the VCSE sector and 'asks' from their grantees. He then outlined the questions for funders, commissioners and local infrastructure organisations (LIOs). The Chair thanked the JRHT Partnerships Manager (Communities) for his presentation.

The Chief Executive of York CVS then explained the impact of the pandemic on York CVS. She explained that they had been hit hard because of the loss of the use of the conference rooms in their building, resulting in estimated losses of £100k at the end of the financial year. She outlined the work undertaken during the pandemic which included social prescribing, making welfare calls, monitoring the COVID-19 monitoring hub (at the request of the CCG), offering free HR support to members, and supporting other charities through a fundraising campaign. Presently, the COVID-19 helpline was open, volunteer calls had been reinstated, and the volunteer centre was up and running. She explained that for the voluntary sector, funding was the biggest issue, and there were problems around capacity, with a number of charities having less staff and volunteers and increased demand for services, resulting in a number not being sustainable in six months. She advised that the council help by underwriting reserves, reading their fortnightly newsletter, keep listening for ensuring support for the voluntary sector. She also asked that the allocation of Ward funding be changed to operate across York by pooling its resource.

The Chief Officer (Age UK) reported that she had been in post since the beginning of lockdown in March. She narrated both positive and negative stories from the pandemic and explained the fragility of the Age UK network which was beyond financial, affecting their infrastructure and workforce. She noted the hard work of the work force, especially as it was a low wage one. She thanked York CVS for its support. She noted what funding had been received and explained that 2021 planning was a focus and which Age UK would like to work with the council and other statutory bodies, noting that 2021 was their 50th anniversary. She added that after the COVID-19 vaccination it was expected that the demand from Age UK would increase, in supporting people to reclaim their lives. The Chair thanked her for her update.

The Centre Manager of Door 84 explained her role and the history of the organisation, which had been on site in their premises for 50 years. She explained how Door 84 had responded to the need to support young people through the development of different groups, some of which had and had not continued to run during the pandemic. She noted the support received from York CVS and the work undertaken to support groups during the pandemic which included welfare calls to young people once a week, sending out activity packs to members. They also worked with foodbanks to deliver packages to families and this had evolved to a community stall which included fresh fruit and vegetables being included in the bespoke food boxes delivered to families. With regard to funding there had been a decrease in income, with one charity leaving their building. She added that there had been a hit to fundraising and they had put in funding bids for the COVID-19 response. They were now planning for the future and were concerned that without core funding they would be in trouble in 12 months' time. She noted they were beneficiaries of York CVS, working with a consultant on their business plan. With regard to help from the council she asked for rate relief, training for staff and trustees and recognition of the work put in.

In response to questions from Members, the JRHT Partnerships Manager (Communities) explained that his presentation reflected the national level in drawing together collective voices and did not specifically reflect the sector in York. He noted the need to have an inclusive approach in bringing different communities and sectors together.

The Chair noted that council officers were in attendance to outline the delivery of Community Hubs and the proposals for their use as set out in the report presented at the Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Communities Decision Session on 14 October 2020. The Commissioning Manager presented his report on the management of emergency volunteering by the council in response to Covid-19. In response to Member questions, officers explained that discussions had taken place with the York and North Yorkshire 'Ready For Anything' group in order to establish their role in future emergencies. He also described the opportunities for council volunteers to be involved in longer-term volunteering in the community and voluntary sector when the COVID-19 volunteering is closed down.

Members asked how organisations could work together to avoid duplication of services. The Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Communities and Chief Executive of York CVS explained that they had met to discuss how this could be achieved and he thanked the voluntary sector for its work.

[The Centre Manager, Door 84 left at 19:00]

The Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Communities explained that he was looking forward to getting the volunteer centre running and the Chief Executive of York CVS added that there would be different targeted groups for this. Asked about access to York CVS at Priory Street, she added that there was a mixed approach to this with some being online and some at the CVS.

Resolved: That the committed be updated on the work undertaken by the voluntary sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reason: In order to be updated on the work of the voluntary sector.

62. FUTURE VOLUNTARY SUPPORT AND NEEDS

Members asked what the voluntary sector would like from the council in terms of the contracting approach.

The Chief Officer (Age UK) noted that she would like to see a move towards more outcomes based commissioning. The Head of Commissioning noted that this was a sensible move towards a relational commissioning model and added that this could be difficult. The JRHT Partnerships Manager (Communities) explained that out of the Institute for Voluntary Research (IVAR) work came an understanding of using social prescribing and the anchor model to produce a matrix of which organisations were under the anchor model.

Members welcomed the Wards working together and it was suggested that Wards could use their funding strategically. The Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Communities was asked and explained how the commissioning find could be used and he suggested that a written briefing on this could be produced for the Committee. The Assistant Director Communities and Culture explained how funding was allocated from the government. It was noted that information on the Volunteer Centre was available on the York CVS website. It was suggested that the council Community Involvement Officers (COIs) could find out what support was available from York CVS and cascade this information in their Wards. In terms of lost revenue for venue hire, it was suggested that a list of venues (available on the York CVS website) could be shared at Ward Committee meetings. It was suggested that the Committee could look at anchor organisations and officers explained the collaborative approach to this. The Chief Executive of York CVS invited Members to part in the York CVS strategy consultation which would contribute to their volunteering strategy.

Resolved: That commissioning arrangements be referred to CSMC

Reason: In order to be informed on how commissioning is undertaken at the council.

63. WORK PLAN

Members considered the Committee's draft work plan for the 2020/21 municipal year. Following discussions regarding the current work plan, Members agreed that the NEET Report be deferred to June as part of a wider skills report and that support for anchor organisations would be discussed at a future forum meeting. Members acknowledged the importance of the Safeguarding report. The Corporate Director of People was asked and reported that there had been no changes to the staffing structure in her directorate.

Resolved: That the work plan be approved subject to the above amendments/additions for consideration by CSMC.

Reason: To keep the Committee's work plan updated.

Cllr R Baker, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 7.56 pm].

**Children, Education & Communities Policy
& Scrutiny Committee**

5 January 2021

Report of the Corporate Director of People

**2020/21 FINANCE SECOND QUARTER MONITORING REPORT – CHILDREN,
EDUCATION & COMMUNITIES**
Summary

- 1 This report analyses the latest performance for 2020/21 and forecasts the financial outturn position by reference to the service plans and budgets for all of the services falling under the responsibility of this committee.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

- 2 A summary of the service plan variations is shown at table 1 below.

Table 1 – CEC Financial Projections Summary 2020/21 – Quarter 2

2020/21 Quarter 1 Variation £000		2020/21 Latest Approved Budget			2020/21 Projected Outturn Variation	
		Gross Spend £000	Income £000	Net Spend £000	£000	%
+3,223	Children's Specialist Services	21,095	1,877	19,218	+4,983	+25.9
+342	Communities & Equalities	9,903	4,739	5,164	+164	+3.2
+1,677	Education & Skills	16,885	4,942	11,943	+2,097	+17.6
-1,400	School Funding & Assets	133,268	141,165	-7,897	-1,437	-18.2
+678	Central CEC Budgets	1,679	5,996	-4,317	+530	+12.3
-500	Children's Improvement Funding				-600	
-514	Covid 19 Funding				-1,192	
-1,500	Mitigations				-1,950	
+2,006	Total CEC Directorate	182,830	158,719	24,111	+2,595	+10.8

+ indicates increased expenditure or reduced income / - indicates reduced expenditure or increased income

- 3 A net overspend of £2,595k is forecast primarily due to children's social care. The following sections provide more details of the major outturn variations.

Children's Specialist Services (+£4,983k / +25.9%)

- 4 The placements budgets are predicted to overspend by a total of £3,025k in 2020/21. This includes variances of £692k on Fostering (including Independent Fostering Agencies), £461k on adoption and other allowances and £1,128k on Out of City Placements. The fostering projection is based on all local foster carer positions being filled, so where a child reaches 18 or a foster placement ends, then it is assumed that this is filled. The IFA and Out of City Placement projections have taken account of the placements expected to end in 2020/21, with a further reduction expected in 2021/22.
- 5 The number of Looked After Children in York has increased significantly in the past 12 months. The Looked After Children population had been stable for a number of years, in the range 190-210 at any one time (this was significantly below statistical neighbour and national average) On appointment the new Directorate Management Team identified unsafe drift and delay for some children in the system. This was subsequently identified by Ofsted and corrective action has led to significant recalibration in the system. For example in October 2018 there were only 4 individual children in care proceedings. As at the end of September 2020 there were 55 sets of proceedings on 93 individual children in place. Whilst the recalibration of the system has led to an increase of children in care, children are safer as a result and work now is being done to safely reduce numbers to acceptable levels. We have recently had an external review of our multi agency safeguarding hub (the front door to children's social care services) which has confirmed that decision making and thresholds are now appropriate.
- 6 At the time of this monitor the Children & Young People in Care (CYPIC) number is 285 and within the next 3 years 24.8% of these will leave local authority care. A Reducing Service Costs Board has been established in Specialist Services chaired by the Assistant Director which will review arrangements to reduce CYPIC numbers safely, the effectiveness and impact of the Edge of Care Service, current Family Group Conference activity and progress on foster care recruitment. In addition a Strategic Overview of Permanence Group has been established, chaired by the Assistant Director to monitor the new Permanence Strategy through tight oversight of children with a plan of permanence and ensuring rigorous use of trackers in order to prevent delay and manage demand in the system.
- 7 A Track and Challenge exercise is also being undertaken on all young people in high cost residential placements which will also ensure education and health costs contributions where applicable are met. A Pathway for funding will be set up to include Health and Continuing Care funding. Children in residential are also being reviewed and those who need to be assessed with a view to returning

nearer to York or 52 week placements in residential school to reduce to 38 are assessed.

- 8 Safeguarding Interventions are predicted to overspend by approximately £1,139k, mainly due to increases in the Court and Child Protection Teams who are dealing with the increase in cases. Legal fees are predicted to overspend by approximately £220k. Children protection numbers, following a recalibration spike, have now returned to national average levels.
- 9 Staffing budgets with Children's Social Work Services are also predicted to overspend by approximately £269k. This is mainly due to temporary staffing across the service, which the directorate has worked hard to eliminate with permanent appointments. Use of agency staff is at a last resort. This could be for example to back fill maternity leave however managers must evidence that they have attempted to backfill with fixed term contract in advance of any agency staff being agreed. A revised structure which reduced the need for agency costs had been agreed just before lock down but has not been able to be taken forward during the initial phase of the pandemic. This is now being re activated.

Communities & Equalities (+£164k / +3.2%)

- 10 The majority of this variance is related to the projected costs of the Community Hubs which were set up at the beginning of lockdown and have transitioned into a new method of working. The cost for 2020/21 is now estimated to be in the region of £131k, which will be funded from Covid 19 emergency funding.

Education & Skills (+£2,097k / +17.6%)

- 11 Home to School Transport budgets are currently projected to overspend, although, due to the complications and uncertainties created by the requirements for school transport and social distancing from September, it is extremely difficult to estimate the size of the overspend at this stage. Discussions are currently ongoing with schools and bus and taxi companies about potential arrangements and costs. This issue is common to all LAs with Home to School Transport responsibilities, and the Government has recognised this with the announcement of a grant to assist in funding these additional costs. City of York Councils allocation of this grant is £119k and we are committed to not spend beyond this
- 12 In addition to the effects of Covid-19, the Home to School Transport budget was already in a historic overspend position of approximately £200k. The savings targets for the SEN element of home to school transport have not been achieved because of a growth in the number of pupils/students requiring transport and the specialist requirements of that transport. The main increase in numbers have been at post 16/19 where because of the city now being able to provide more specialist education provision for this group of students more locally, subsequently we have had to provide more transport to the likes of York College, Askham Bryan, Choose 2 and Blueberry Academy. The changes in legislation

to allow Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) to ages 19-25, resulting in significantly more students accessing this option, has significantly increased our transport spend accordingly. At this stage an estimate of a £200k overspend has been included in the directorate projection, reflecting the effects of the historic overspend, although this is subject to change as guidelines alter.

- 13 The DSG budgets within Education and Skills are predicted to overspend by £1,876k, mainly due to the high number of Out of Authority placements, which is partially responsible for the deficit position on the DSG.

Schools Funding & Assets (-£1,437 / -18.2%)

- 14 The DSG position at 1st April 2020 was a deficit of £4.865m. Current predictions on High Needs and Central Services Block expenditure indicate that this deficit could grow to £10m by the end of this financial year, due to the continuing increase in High Needs numbers, and increasing complexity, requiring expensive provision. The main pressures are in Post 16 and Post 19 provision and the Out of Authority placements highlighted above. We are developing a DSG recovery plan which will provide options to bring this back to a balanced budget over the next 3 years. We are also part of national lobbying for the SEND review to move forward to address the funding gaps in this area which are experienced across the country.

Director of CEC and Central Budgets (+£530 / +12.3%)

- 15 The projected overspend is mainly due to expenditure on the children's improvement plan, unachieved vacancy factor within the senior management team and additional admin support.

Mitigations

- 16 The service is working on a detailed, costed mitigation plan that will include ways to improve controls over expenditure, identify efficiencies across the directorate and benchmarking with other Councils to ensure best value is being achieved across all areas. Work is also underway to manage and understand demand so that early support can be put in place along with improved commissioning to ensure all activity is needs led and evidence based. We are also considering options to deliver services in a different way either through new brokerage arrangements or sharing services on a wider footprint.

Council Plan

- 17 This report is directly linked to the key priority A Better Start for Children and Young People in the Council Plan.

Implications

- 18 The financial implications are covered within the main body of the report. There are no other direct implications arising from this report.

Recommendations

- 19 As this report is for information only there are no specific recommendations.

Reason: To update the committee on the latest financial position for 2020/21.

Contact Details

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Amanda Hatton
Corporate Director of People

**Report
Approved**

Date 22 December 2020

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the authors of the report

Background Papers

2020/21 Finance and Performance Monitor 2 Report, Executive 26 November 2020
<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=733&MId=12407>



December 2020

**The Annual Report of the City of York
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)**

Note: This report is the first to reflect an academic year instead of a calendar year cycle; it therefore effectively covers the second two terms of the academic year 2019-20

Summary

This report provides members and NASACRE with details of the work of the City of York Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) from January to December 2020.

1. Background

Under the provision of the 1988 Education Reform Act every local education authority has a responsibility to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), together with an occasional body, called an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

In September 2018 SACRE published revised versions of its constitution, roles and responsibilities of SACRE members and a guide to York SACRE. These are all available at www.york.gov.uk/sacre

2. Membership

The people who serve on SACREs are invited to do so by the Director of Children's Services, Education and Skills on the recommendation of various bodies in the local community with a concern for the religious education of school children. The law prescribes that there have to be four "committees" each comprising representatives of specified groups. Those four committees can together co-opt further non-voting members, provided a majority are in agreement. The actual members change over time and the current SACRE is constituted as follows:-

Representing Other Denominations / Faith Communities:-

- Kevin Duffy (Catholic)
- Ben Rich (Jewish)
- Keith Albans (Methodist)
- Vacant (Muslim)
- Tracey Copestake (Religious Society of Friends)
- Vacant (Salvation Army)

Vacant (Sikh)
Daryoush Mazloum (York Baha'i Community)
Penny Coppin-Siddall (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)
Ian Hodgson (Humanist)

Representing the Church of England:-

Olivia Seymour (Diocese of York)
Katherine Harper (Archbishop Holgate's CE Academy)

Representing Teachers:-

Claire Hennigan (Yearsley Grove)
Jenny Mooney (Westfield)
Brenda Christison (Naburn)

Representing the City of York Council are Councillors:-

Ian Cuthbertson (Lib Dem)
Martin Rowley (Con)
Chris Cullwick (Lib Dem)
Fiona Fitzpatrick (Lab)

In attendance:-

John Thompson (Education Adviser)
Janie Berry / Angela Bielby (Clerk)

Mike Jory (Education Adviser) who has supported SACRE since 2015 stepped down from this role in February 2020. Clerking and facilitation of meetings has been carried out by Naomi Watson of the Schools Effectiveness and Achievement service. Under revised arrangements for the council's support of SACRE (see item 5 below) she has also relinquished her role. We would like to acknowledge, and thank them for, their contributions.

3. Religious Education

During the period January 2020 to March 2020 Ofsted inspection reports indicate that those schools inspected appear to be compliant in the statutory provision of RE. There were two inspections in this period, both of primary schools.

Due to the impact of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, including the closure for many pupils during the summer term, no Ofsted inspections have taken place since March 2020 and they will not start again until January 2021. Research visits to schools by Ofsted are taking place in the Autumn Term. Whilst these are technically inspections, no reports are being published but letters are being sent to schools following visits. Two primary schools and one secondary school have been visited. None of the resulting letters reference RE.

There was one SIAMS inspection in York in the spring term, at Elvington primary school which was graded good.

All the reports are public documents and are available on the respective school websites.

There will be no published public examination results for the summer of 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Information about examination entries, which were made prior to the cancellation of the examinations can be found in item 7 below.

It had been intended to introduce some monitoring of provision by SACRE in 2020 through visits to schools. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this has not been possible but the issue was discussed at the SACRE meeting of July 2020. Protective measures in place in schools under Covid-19 arrangements mean that it is unlikely that visits will be possible during the 2020-21 academic year and SACRE will need to consider alternative methods of monitoring.

4. Collective Worship

Besides Religious Education each local authority must work with its SACRE to monitor the provision of daily collective worship. As a result of changes to the Ofsted framework and in the absence of further guidance, the City of York SACRE published new guidance in 2017 to support Collective Worship in schools in the City, which it continues to promote within schools. The guidance is available on the City of York SACRE website (www.york.gov.uk/sacre).

5. Update on the work of SACRE

- The following priorities for the development of SACRE were discussed and agreed as part of the SACRE plan for 2018-20:
 - (1) Continue to raise the profile of SACRE and develop RE
 - (2) Contribute to the development of a professional CPD programme to develop the quality of RE teaching
- York SACRE is a member of the Learn Teach Lead RE regional hub
- Since January 2020 two SACRE meetings have been held, but these were not quorate. Following previous efforts to recruit new members, especially current teachers, and to fill the faith group vacancies it was decided to raise the profile of SACRE as a statutory committee of the council and formally incorporate it into the council's formal governance processes. This means that meetings will now be organised, facilitated and minuted by the council's Democratic Services team.
- The closure of schools for most pupils in March and pandemic infection protection measures prevented further work on actions identified at the January meeting including the Jewish Living Exhibition which had been scheduled for June. However, signposting to national and local resources had continued to be provided to schools and added to the City of York Council website, national updates to the agreed syllabus had been sent to schools,

Learn, Track and read RE had held some workshops online and the Humanist workshop had also moved online.

- The March meeting was cancelled due to the pandemic and a meeting in July focused on updating members about the new arrangements for managing SACRE, the situation in schools during the summer term, information about full opening of schools in September and preparation for the Agreed syllabus review.
- As a result of the new arrangements for managing SACRE, including the election of Cllr. Ian Cuthbertson as Chair in October 2020, Olivia Seymour will no longer act as Interim Chair. She continues to be a member of SACRE but her considerable contribution in the academic year 2019-20 is recognised.
- A key piece of work for SACRE in 2021 will be agreeing its new syllabus. In light of the continuing pandemic and resulting pressures on schools, the SACRE development plan will need to be reviewed with actions which can realistically be taken forward identified and prioritised.

6. Examinations in Religious Studies/Education Summer 2020

As noted above, there are no published examination results or performance tables for 2020 because of the cancellation of exams and the use of alternative grading and assessment methodology.

All five school sixth forms entered students for A Level RE, with the total number of entries being 47, which is one less than last year when only four schools made entries.

At GCSE there were 1273 GCSE entries across the nine secondary schools and a further 26 entries for GCSE short course. GCSE entries had declined from 1047 in 2015 to 744 in 2018 before increasing to 910 in 2019. In 2020 there was, therefore, a significant increase in the level of entries whereas nationally the number of entries was stable.

7. Methods of Teaching

The Agreed Syllabus provides a comprehensive framework for teaching and learning and assessment of pupils' knowledge and understanding of religions. As noted in item 5 above, the Agreed Syllabus will be reviewed for academic year 2021-22.

8. Complaints regarding the teaching of RE

None were made to SACRE during this reporting year.

9. Determinations

From time to time a school may request from the SACRE a "determination"; i.e. permission to waive the legal requirements for religious education and collective

worship to be 'wholly or mainly Christian'. The SACRE has received no requests for determinations during this reporting year.

10. Complaints regarding Collective Worship

There have been no complaints about Collective Worship.

Report produced by John Thompson, Schools Effectiveness and Achievement: Head of Secondary and Skills.

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