

# Public Document Pack

## People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 6th October, 2021

6.00 pm

Blackburn Library

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### AGENDA

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

To welcome those present to the meeting and to receive any apologies for absence.

**2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th September 2021.**

To approve as a correct record and to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

**People Overview and Scrutiny Committee 6th sept 3 - 7**

**3. Declarations of Interest.**

To receive any declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FORM 8**

**4. SACRE**

To receive a presentation on the work of SACRE and to receive its annual report.

**3 SACRE Induction New members 9 - 31**  
**SACRE Annual report 2021**

**5. Safeguarding Review**

To receive a presentation on the progress of the review of Safeguarding.

**6. Peer Challenge-Neglect**

To receive a presentation on the Peer Challenge on Effective understanding, recognition and response to neglect.

**People OSC Post peer review Highlight Report 32 - 41**

**7. Update on Return to Schools.**

To receive an update on the return to school and the work that has been done to maintain safety.

Date Published: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021.  
Denise Park, Chief Executive

## People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Present:- Councillor Liddle, in the chair, Councillors Hussain, Smith, Fielding, Whittle and Akhtar.

Also present:- Mark Hindle, Managing Director, Pathology Services

Jack Smith, Elaine Day, Sharon Walker,- Stroke Services.

Professor Dominic Harrison, Director of Public Health.

Paul Conlon, Democratic Services.

### **1 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and received apologies from Councillors Hussain and Irfan.

### **2. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were submitted.

**RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **2. Lancashire and South Cumbria Pathology Collaboration.**

The Committee received a presentation on the planned formation of a single pathology service for Lancashire and south cumbria.by 2023. The benefits were outlined, together with the challenges that the delivery of the single service would face. The Committee were informed that the main thrust behind the proposals was to ensure that there was a consistency of service across the South Cumbria and Lancashire footprint and to ensure that he service was delivered as cost effectively as possible using the technology that was developing. The model would use a spoke and hub model with services delivered in hospital where results were needed as an emergency and more routine tests being done in the central hub. The central location was to be developed at Samlesbury, close to the motorway network and also closer to the main users of the service based in East Lancashire and Preston. The Committee looked at how the service would be provided and the demands of all service users would be met, from GPs to hospital trusts. The Committee also focused on the way that areas

at the edge of the patch would be served by the service as opposed to at present. The importance of the samples being delivered within time scales was discussed and the ways that this would be addressed. The Committee were informed of the time line for the delivery of the proposed changes and the stages that needed to be completed including the building of the hub. The government had agreed the funding for the proposals and it was aimed to get the service up and running by 2023. Attention was drawn to the need for autopsies to be carried out as soon as possible to allow Muslim burials to take place in line with customs and in response it was stated that arrangements that assisted in early release of bodies at present would continue and the new pathology developments would support this and make sure that burials could take place in line with requirements.

The Committee requested that they be kept informed of developments and that the enhanced service provision and consistency of service be supported.

RESOLVED- That the Committee support the proposals for the future delivery of Pathology services in South Cumbria and Lancashire as now outlined and that the Committee be kept up to date on the progress and implementation of the proposals.

#### **4 Proposed Enhancements to Acute Stroke Care and Rehabilitation Services for Lancashire and South Cumbria.**

The Committee received a briefing on the proposals for the enhancements to the acute stroke care and rehabilitation services in the area. The Committee were informed that strokes were the fourth largest cause of deaths in the UK and remained the leading cause of disability. One third of stroke survivors were no longer able to live independently and across Lancashire and South Cumbria there were now over 3,500 strokes per year. The Committee were informed of the current arrangements for stroke care in Lancashire and South Cumbria and that these did not provide the highest quality and care required. The enhancements proposed would seek to ensure that the population of South Cumbria and Lancashire received the best care wherever they lived, all day, every day.

There were currently five different stroke centres/units in the area and these centres all provided the same service with patients taken to their local hospitals and assessed for stroke. If appropriate they may receive thrombolysis or transferred to Royal Preston Hospital by ambulance for Thrombectomy. The Committee were informed of the rates of performance throughout the area ranging from The Royal Preston and Blackburn being A rated and lower in Blackpool and Furness. The Committee were informed that the key aspect of providing effective stroke care was the availability of qualified and experienced doctors, nurses and therapists when the patient most needed them, in the initial hyper acute and acute phases of care and recovery (the first 72 hours/3 days of care), together with timely access to the latest medical advancements such as Thrombectomy or thrombolysis. The national shortage of suitably qualified and experienced stroke specialists meant that it is not possible to fully staff all five stroke units and maintain this going forward.

When developing the new arrangements for acute stroke centres consideration had to be given therefore, to:

- Which of the current stroke units could become fully resourced hyper acute and acute stroke centres?
- How many of these were needed to adequately serve the population and maintain a consistent, high level of care? and
- Did this represent the best value for money for the NHS?

Based on arrangements in other parts of the country and the size of the population in Lancashire and South Cumbria it could be argued that two acute stroke centres would be needed. However, given the geography of the area, the number of strokes in the region and the clinical pressures that would result if there were only two centres, it was determined that three acute stroke centres (one of which would be a comprehensive stroke centre) would be more appropriate and this would require a significantly high level of investment.

A modelling exercise and evaluation process had been undertaken, which included stroke survivor, carer, Stroke Association, and stroke professional input, and this resulted in the new model of care proposals. The proposals to achieve this were as follows:

- No existing stroke centre would close – all would remain in operation as Stroke Recovery Units, which offer full stroke rehabilitation services before transfer to integrated community stroke teams.
- Stroke Ambulatory care services are introduced at all five stroke centres for the more efficient treatment of mild or older mini-stroke (TIA) patients and stroke mimics (people with stroke like symptoms but which are not strokes).
- Royal Preston Hospital, already a specialist stroke care centre and only one of three hospitals in the North West to offer Thrombectomy and neurosurgery, becomes the Comprehensive Stroke Centre. Its current resources and more central location make it the sensible and cost-effective choice for offering the full range of specialist hyper acute and acute stroke services.
- Two new Specialist Acute Stroke Centres being established at Blackburn Royal Hospital and Blackpool Victoria Hospital. These centres will be enhanced with the qualified stroke staff and facilities needed. Originally, Royal Lancaster Infirmary was one of the options to become a specialist acute stroke centre, but the other sites scored higher in the evaluation process.
- Mini-stroke (TIA) patients given immediate medication and assessment by stroke specialists through either an acute stroke unit, neurovascular clinic or ambulatory clinic, depending upon their symptoms and the time elapsed since the mini-stroke/TIA.
- Introduction of an enhanced Triage, Treat and Transfer model of care at Furness General Hospital (FGH). This means patients with suspected stroke will go to FGH; on arrival stroke specialist staff in the Emergency Department will triage the patient, ruling out a number of stroke mimics (stroke like symptoms that are not strokes), the patients will go for immediate CT scan and then receive initial immediate treatment as required. Initial immediate

treatment includes thrombolysis, which, if to be effective, needs to be administered within four and half hours of the onset of the patients' stroke symptoms (F.A.S.T. means fast). The patients will then be transferred to Royal Preston Hospital for the first 72hrs of hyper acute and acute care via urgent ambulance transfer.

- In keeping with the best clinical model, patients normally bound for Royal Lancaster Infirmary would be taken directly to the Comprehensive Stroke Centre at Royal Preston Hospital, due to its closer proximity to Preston than Furness. Upon arrival at Royal Preston the triage and treat model is applied, and stroke patients will already be on site to access their first 72 hours of hyper acute and acute stroke care. Non-stroke patients are triaged and returned to Royal Lancaster for relevant treatment.
- Any patients transferred to another acute or comprehensive stroke centre for urgent hyper acute and acute treatment will either be returned to their local stroke centre for ongoing stroke rehabilitation or referred to their integrated community stroke teams for rehabilitation at home or other community setting, such as nursing or residential home.
- Single stroke service across Lancashire and South Cumbria, with high quality elements in each area and a common workforce strategy for the staffing, education and training of all staff across all stroke centres

It was originally envisaged that the enhanced Triage, Treat and Transfer model would also apply to Royal Lancaster Infirmary (RLI) patients. Learning from other areas of the country now indicates that the best clinical model for patients from this area of Lancashire is for them to be directed immediately to Royal Preston Hospital and be admitted as per their stroke pathway. The Committee received an outline of the patient journeys for patients from throughout the South Cumbria and Lancashire area.

Patients with stroke like symptoms who, upon assessment at the stroke ambulatory clinic, have not had a stroke or mini stroke, will be referred to the relevant medical team at the hospital or discharged home, as appropriate. Such patients may have had a seizure, migraine, trapped nerve, back injury, a psychotic disorder or other medical problem but will no longer occupy stroke unit beds, as can be the case now.

Members discussed the patient's views on the proposals and were informed that the patient wishes had been sought and were in favour of the proposals as they delivered better outcomes for stroke victims in exchange for close proximity. The Committee looked at the way that ambulance support was crucial to the delivery of the proposed service and members were informed that the North West Ambulance Service had been involved throughout the process and enhancements to services were to be made where necessary to deliver this.

RESOLVED- 1. That the proposals for the proposed enhancement to Acute Stroke Care and Rehabilitation for Lancashire and South Cumbria be noted.

2. That the improved care model as now proposed with three Stroke Centres be supported by this Committee.

3. That further reports be submitted to the Committee when appropriate on the progress of the proposals.

**5 Lancashire and South Cumbria Health and Care Partnership Up-date.**

The Committee were informed that a presentation would be made to the next meeting in December by the Head of the Integrated Care System for South Cumbria and Lancashire setting out work to date and plans for the future for the delivery of Health and Social Care for the area and how the delivery models would be developed to meet the needs of the region in the future. Members were invited to consider any areas that they felt should be covered in the presentation that would assist their understanding of the changes.

**RESOLVED-**

That the situation be noted.

**6. Blackburn with Darwen Health Watch.**

Sarah Johns, Chief Executive of Blackburn Healthwatch was welcomed to the meeting. She set out the work being undertaken by Healthwatch and the consultations that they were carrying out. The work on patient experience, Long Covid and Care Homes visits were outlined and possible collaborative ways that the Committee could work with Healthwatch to the benefit of residents of the borough. The Committee were informed that Sarah would be invited to attend future meetings where she felt that the input of Healthwatch would be beneficial and add value to the work of the Committee.

**RESOLVED-**

That the Committee welcome the attendance of Blackburn with Darwen Healthwatch and look forward to working together to enhance the work on health in the borough.

Chair at the meeting were the minutes were signed.....

Date.....

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

**Members attending a Council, Committee, Board or other meeting with a personal interest in a matter on the Agenda must disclose the existence and nature of the interest and, if it is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or an Other Interest under paragraph 16.1 of the Code of Conduct, should leave the meeting during discussion and voting on the item.**

**Members declaring an interest(s) should complete this form and hand it to the Democratic Services Officer at the commencement of the meeting and declare such an interest at the appropriate point on the agenda.**

MEETING:

DATE:

AGENDA ITEM NO.:

DESCRIPTION (BRIEF):

NATURE OF INTEREST:

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY/OTHER (delete as appropriate)

SIGNED :

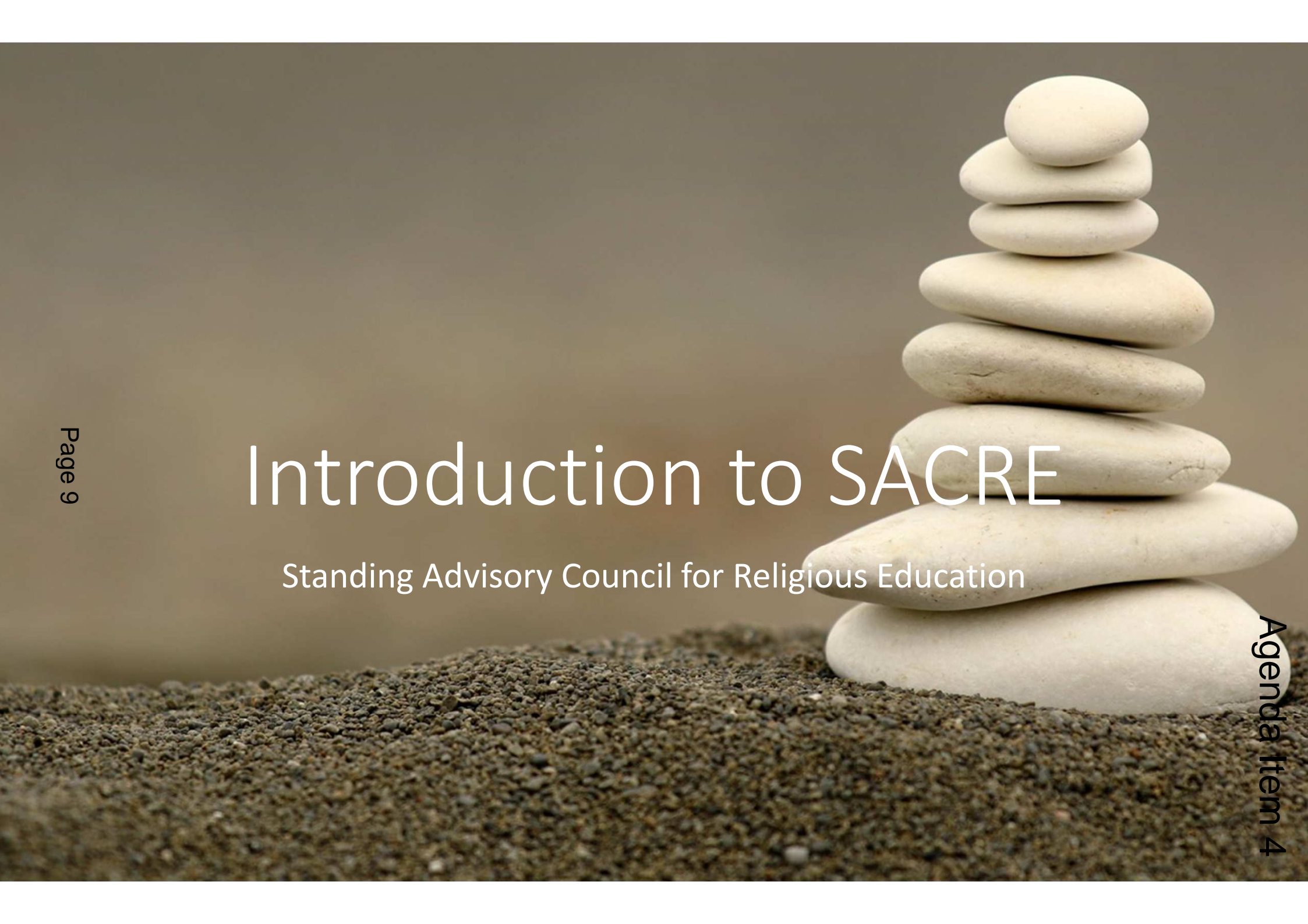
PRINT NAME:

(Paragraphs 8 to 17 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Council refer)



# Introduction to SACRE

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education



# Aims

To provide an overview of the purpose and functions of SACRE

To develop understanding of the composition of SACRE and decision making processes

To develop understanding of the role and responsibilities of members

To develop a clear understanding of the legal requirements for religious education and collective worship

To foster team work and collaboration within SACRE



# Key Functions of a SACRE

## Curriculum Design and Development

Requiring the review of an agreed syllabus for religious education adopted by the Local Authority.

Page 1

## Supporting Schools

Providing advice on methods of teaching, choice of materials and provision of teacher training.

## Making Determinations

Receiving and responding to requests for determinations on Collective Worship .

## Advice

Advising the Local Authority on matters connected with Religious Education and Collective Worship

## Reporting

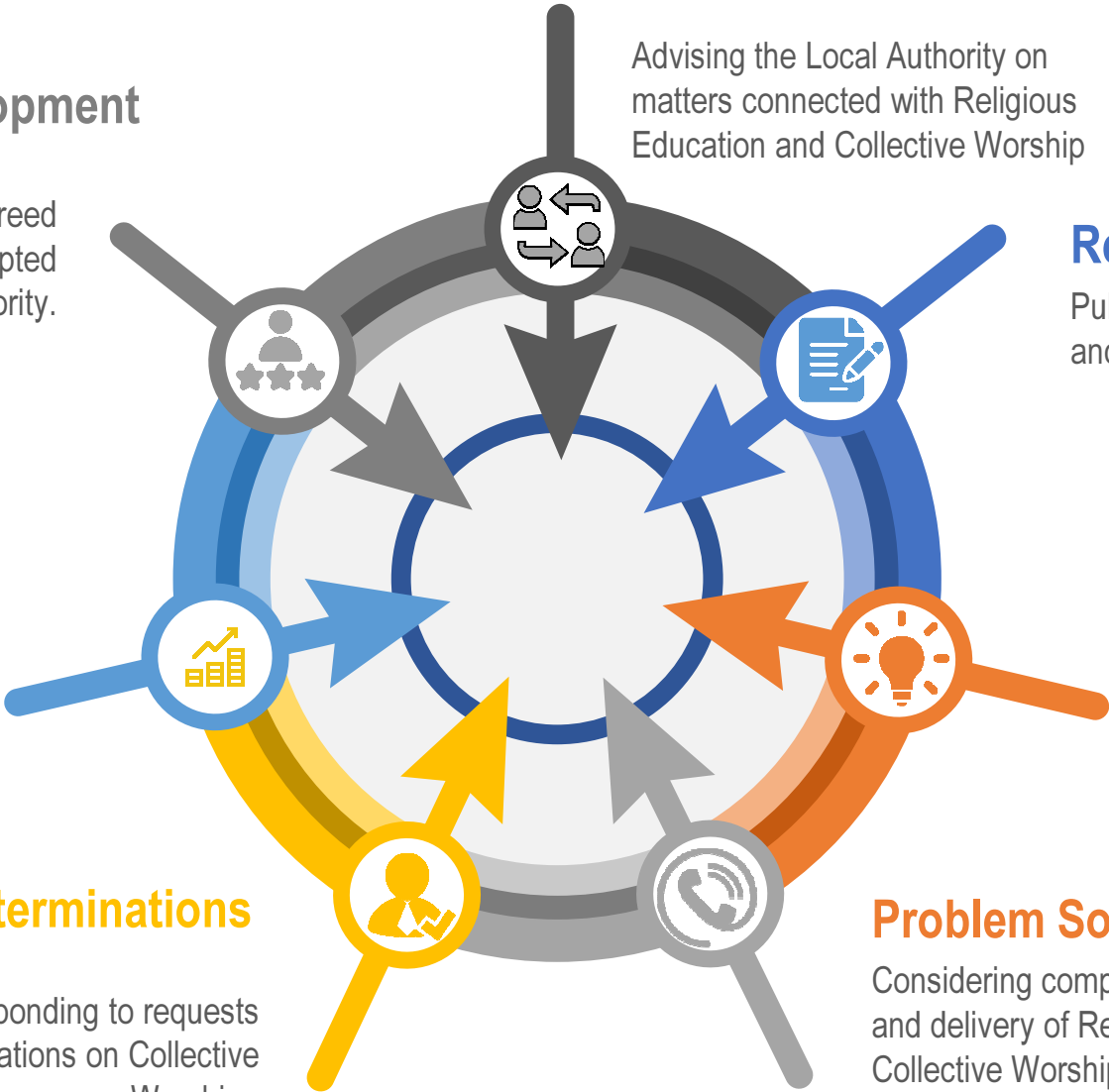
Publishing minutes of meetings and an annual report of its work

## Monitoring

Monitoring standards of Religious Education and Collective Worship

## Problem Solving

Considering complaints about the provision and delivery of Religious Education and Collective Worship referred by the Local Authority



# SACRE STRUCTURE

The Local Authority



Committee A  
1 Vote

Religions and other Christian Denominations.



Committee D  
1 Vote

Committee B  
1 Vote

Committee C  
1 Vote

Professional Associations.



Church of England.





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Why serve on a  
SACRE?

Serving on any SACRE should be a rewarding experience.

Through active participation members contribute to:

- the quality of Religious Education and Collective Worship across the Local Authority
- promote interfaith dialogue and community cohesion.

# Religious Education & the law

Page 14

Religious Education is a statutory

Maintained schools must follow the local agreed syllabus.

Religious Education is locally determined

# Religious Education and the law

Page 15

Voluntary Aided  
Schools

Foundation  
schools and  
Voluntary  
Controlled schools

Academies and  
Free schools

# Religious Education and the law

Page 16

Design requirement

Local design to reflect  
local context

Regularly reviewed





# Collective Worship and the law

Page 17

Daily worship is an entitlement for all.

Must be of a 'broadly Christian character'.

Determinations:

SACRE assess the request

Determination reviewed at least every 5 years.

## The right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education and/or Collective Worship. This can be for a specific aspect or activity. Sixth form students may withdraw themselves from collective worship

Religious Education  
Collective Worship  
SMSC development  
Inspection outcomes

**Monitor**

Moderate assessment in  
Religious Education and  
Monitor examination entry  
and outcomes

**Check Assessment**

**Advise**

Methods of teaching  
Sharing good practice  
Review provision for  
professional development

**SACRE  
may  
also**

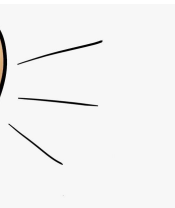
**Collaborate**

With the Local Authority on  
Agreed Syllabus Review  
and

**Consider**

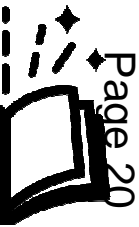
Take complaints  
referred by the LA  
and seek resolution

# Working as a collaborative member of SACRE



An active listener

**01**



Page 20

Keen learner

**02**



Shares knowledge of personal faith

**03**



**04**

Respectful contribution to discussions



**05**

Works in harmony to achieve consensus



**06**

Knows about other faiths



# What else we do need from a good SACRE member?



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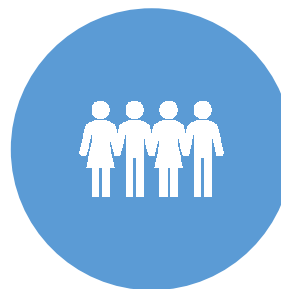
Commitment to regular attendance at meetings



Keeping well informed about new developments both nationally and locally



Willingness to engage with schools, teachers and pupils



A positive advocate of the group who has nominated them to serve and makes accurate representation

Other  
places of  
formation  
and  
support ..

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Faith Education  
Boards and  
Officers

NASACRE

NATRE

RE Online

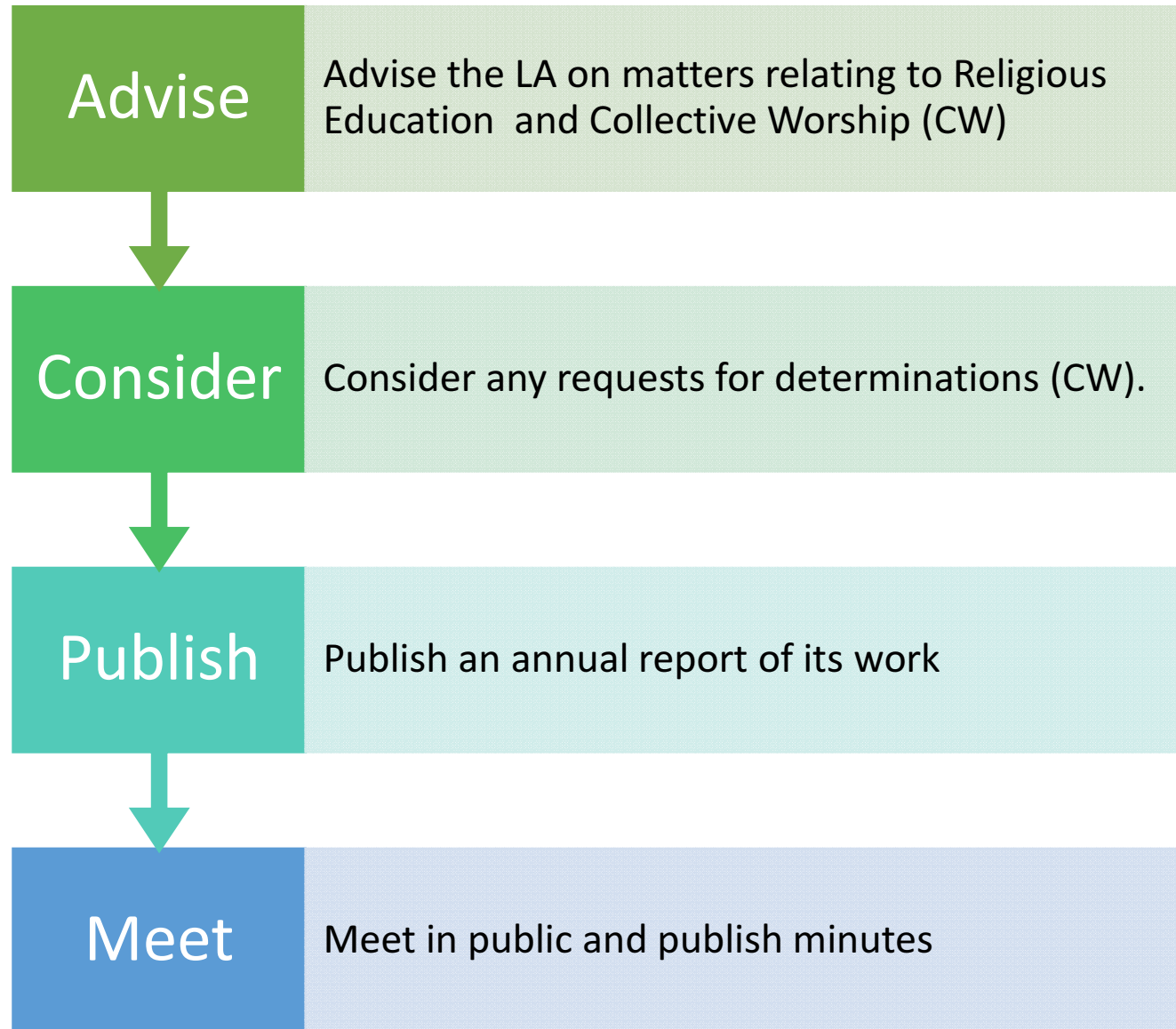
RE Today

RE Quality  
Mark

RE Council

A SACRE  
must.....

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# Annual Report of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) Blackburn with Darwen September 2021

## Contents

Pages Number	Contents
1	<b>1 Words from the Chair of Blackburn with Darwen SACRE</b>
2-3	<b>2 SACRE meetings, 2020 venues and a brief overview of content of these meetings.</b>
4-8	<b>3 Religious Education</b>
8	<b>4 Collective Worship</b>
8	<b>5 Links with other bodies</b>
8	<b>Blackburn with Darwen SACRE</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. SEF</li> <li>2. Action plan March to December 2021</li> <li>3. Membership List September 2021</li> <li>4. Terms of Reference</li> </ol>

## Words from the Chair

SACRE has gone through a period of significant change in terms of leadership and membership over the last academic year. A firm commitment was made by leadership within the education department to re-establish and invigorate a high quality SACRE, to ensure that the Local Authority was able to meet its statutory duties. This commitment was borne out of the desire to provide high quality support advice and guidance for RE and collective worship and to breathe new life into the curriculum for our young people. Ultimately the aim was to ensure that the learning offer from Blackburn with Darwen was vibrant, relevant, and inspiring for the young people.

We began by reviewing the membership of SACRE to ensure that all major local religious communities were represented. The membership now strongly reflects the diversity of the wider religious and professional community. SACRE meetings are now representative, engaging, and productive. All members feel that their views are considered and respected. Moreover, every good use is now made of co-option to ensure membership of the SACRE is well informed and is highly representative of the diversity of the local community. The SACRE has a well-developed process of co-option of where local teachers of RE have been co-opted as well as representatives from each School Improvement Group. SACRE now has a broad representation from all types of school in the LA.

We have also engaged the support of an external consultant to support the new Chair in the period of significant change.

It is important to highlight also that Blackburn with Darwen (BwD) has faced immense COVID related challenges, which have been particularly unique to our area. Factors such as intergenerational living, range of housing stock, multiple community languages and digital literacy and access have all contributed to BwD presenting with consistently high infection rates and consequently prolonged tougher restrictions. Some of the areas most deprived communities and South Asian neighbourhoods have been affected disproportionately. Throughout these challenging times, SACRE has continued to meet successfully twice a term, digitally, via TEAMS, to ensure that the planned work continues. As Blackburn with Darwen has been identified as an area of "Enduring Transmission", this arrangement will continue for 2021 to 2022. As Chair I am incredibly grateful to all who have positively embraced the new ways of meeting and demonstrated their commitment to support SACRE through these the most challenging of times. We look forward, to be able to report further progress of our work in our report next year.

*Alison Ashworth-Taylor*



## 2. SACRE meetings, 2020 venues and a brief overview of content of these meetings.

Date All meetings via Microsoft TEAMS	Brief overview of content of these meetings. Comprehensive copies of minutes can be found at: <a href="https://blackburn.gov.uk/search?search_api_fulltext=SACRE">https://blackburn.gov.uk/search?search_api_fulltext=SACRE</a>
8th July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome, Introductions and relaunch of SACRE, last meeting was February 2019. Priorities for the year were agreed:</li> <li>• Membership review, funding source, commissioning of a consultant, raising profile of SACRE.</li> </ul>
12th February 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alison Ashworth-Taylor was appointed as the new Chair</li> <li>• Dot Thomson was commissioned as a Consultant to the Advisory Board and to the Chair.</li> <li>• Membership was clarified in relation to the Committees and gaps were clearly identified.</li> <li>• Terms of reference were discussed and amended for agreement at the next meeting.</li> <li>• Communication route with academies was clarified.</li> <li>• The Knife Angel project, planned for hosting in November 2021, was briefly introduced to the committee. This project was to be hosted at the Cathedral and was aimed at reducing knife crime and the prevention of it. Further details would be discussed at the next meeting.</li> <li>• The City of Sanctuary and Refugee Week were identified as future themes for SACRE. Brief discussion took place regarding the funding for SACRE and RE</li> <li>• Confirmation that the RE syllabus is due for review in 2022.</li> </ul>
23rd March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visiting speaker Chris Seddon City of Sanctuary/ School of Sanctuary/Refugee Week CS attended the meeting at the request of the SACRE board to speak to them about the above initiatives. CS explained to the group what this initiative entailed, how schools, colleges and even shops could be part of this initiative. It was noted that BCHS is the only School of Sanctuary in the borough. The Refugee Week will take place from 14th June – 20th June and the theme is “You’ll Never Walk Alone”. The group agreed that this would be an ideal opportunity for our schools to get involved in Refugee Week.</li> <li>• The SEF was distributed to the group prior to the meeting and the Chair gave an update on each of the points below: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Standards and quality of provision of religious education</li> <li>2. Management of the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders</li> <li>3. The effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus</li> <li>4. Collective worship</li> <li>5. Contribution of the SACRE to the social and racial harmony agenda</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Short Term Action Plan The Chair shared the short term action plan and went through the priorities in the plan which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key Priority 1: to ascertain levels of compliance in time allocation for RE</li> <li>Key Priority 2: The SACRE work in effective partnership with the LA to monitor and evaluate standards for RE in Blackburn with Darwen Schools</li> <li>Key Priority 3: To ensure that The SACRE is legally compliant and effective in its partnership with the LA to enable the LA to carry out its responsibilities successfully.</li> <li>Key Priority 4: The SACRE has a clear procedure established to ensure an efficient response to request for determination.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• It was noted that the LA had committed to £15,000 to the SACRE budget. The board accepted the SEF and the action points identified.</li> </ul>
25 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visiting Speaker: Emma Owen Message Trust Knife Angel visit in November to Blackburn Cathedral. ‘No More Knives’ A presentation was shared detailing the background of the “No More Knives initiative”. The pilot scheme that was set up and the positive feedback that they received was discussed.</li> </ul>

	<p>The costs for the schools/groups to access the “No Knives More Knives Tour” were shared. It was agreed that it would be beneficial for our schools to hear directly from the Message Trust regarding the tour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data report for R.E. presentation by Victoria Dugdale It was noted that there is no performance table data available for 2020 and there will be no data available for 2021. The latest available data is for 2019. See below for data detail.</li> <li>• SACRE agreed to raise awareness amongst schools regarding the Together Coalition and the Thank You day being organised on Sunday, 5th July. It was also noted that High schools within Blackburn Diocese had been invited to a service of thanksgiving at the Cathedral on 20th June.</li> <li>• The Agreed Syllabus consultation questionnaire was agreed by SACRE and would be sent to schools on 21st June.</li> <li>• The website address was launched for Bwd SACRE</li> </ul>
6th July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visiting Speaker Sheila Gewolb Sheila Gewolb is an elected member on the Board of Deputies of British Jews to the meeting and has been a member of the Cumbria SACRE since 2013, she is also a development worker for the National executive of NASACRE and has recently been re elected for another three years. SG explained that she and Jake Berger (staff officer) will work together to ensure there is Jewish representation on Bwd SACRE. SW highlighted key areas that she and Jake Berger will be working on including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensuring appropriate Jewish representation on SACRE boards</li> <li>▪ Education Outreach work</li> <li>▪ Jewish Living Experience Exhibition</li> </ul> </li> <li>• SACRE received feedback from NASACRE conference</li> <li>• Determinations the LA have now identified which schools need a determination and which schools are up for renewal. This has been communicated to Headteachers.</li> <li>• Brief discussion took place regarding the involvement of young pupils in the work of the SACRE board. It was suggested to have a young people’s SACRE and tapping into the Student Council.</li> </ul>
CPD	<p>Chair, Helen Sage, and Dot Thomson attended the NASACRE conference via Teams on Monday 24th Key points were highlighted for discussion in the SACRE meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, from the report that had been distributed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Finances pose a significant challenge</li> <li>▪ Lack of expertise in RE was raised</li> <li>▪ Importance of free thinking and personal perspective</li> <li>▪ SACRE reports – things to include in the report, help develop our action plan and use the structure to write out the first annual SACRE report.</li> <li>▪ Focus on areas that affect Bwd from a national perspective</li> <li>▪ SACRE – look at how we develop our action plan, take on board the actions identified and how this will inform the review of the RE Syllabus</li> <li>▪ Offering quality CPD</li> <li>▪ Pupil voice is key going forward and student representation on the SACRE is something to consider</li> <li>▪ Curriculum redesign</li> <li>▪ World views</li> </ul>
CPD for Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular, invaluable, meetings have taken place between the Chair, Dot Thomson, and Helen Sage to support the Chair’s development in her new role. Themes for these meetings have included the following areas: Minute taking/ensuring correct representation in membership/ action planning/ SEF/Annual report writing/post conference discussion/agreed syllabus consultation/determinations.</li> </ul>

### 3. Religious Education

#### Local Agreed Syllabus

The Blackburn with Darwen agreed syllabus for religious education 2017-2022 was adopted from RE Today. It is the syllabus to be used by all community schools and has been adopted by all non-faith based academies and free schools. SACRE has begun the review cycle and will set a full review timetable in its September meeting, 2021.

Questionnaires have been distributed to school and responses collated. The response rate was 98% from schools and there was a clear mandate for change.

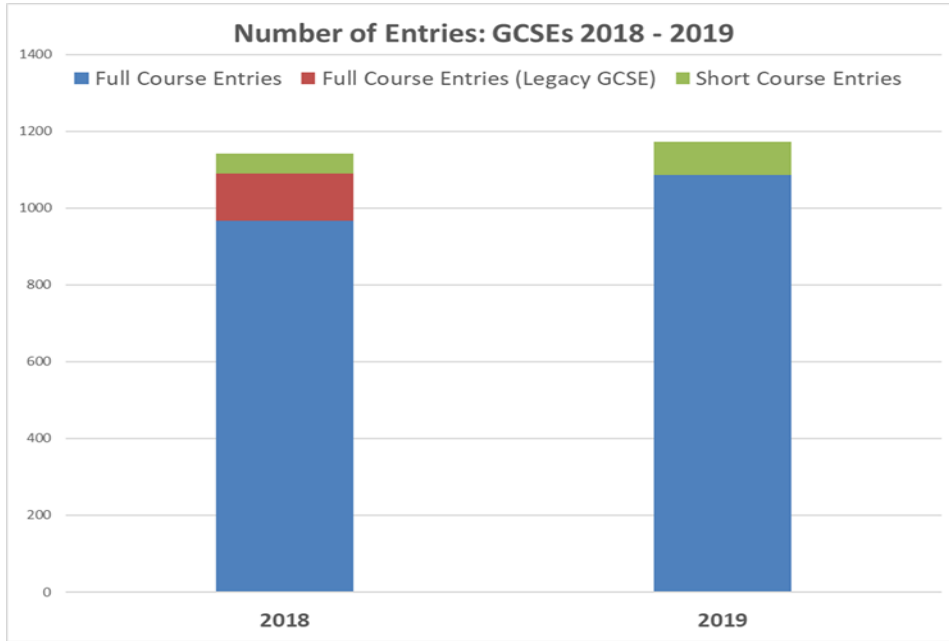
#### Standards and monitoring of RE

There is no performance table data available for 2020 and there will be no data available for 2021.

The latest available data is for 2019.

#### Key Stage 4

2019 was the first year where all the legacy GCSE courses had been phased out and all pupils were graded on the new 9-1 scale.



Faith schools generally had the higher number of entrants, with the exception of Pleckgate, where 98.7% of all pupils were entered. St Wilfrid's was the only school entering pupils for the short course in 2019, all others undertook the full course. The average grade (using the new 9-1 scale) was 5.5, significantly above the national average of 5.1. 76% of pupils entered achieved at least a standard pass (Grade 4 and above) compared with 71% nationally.

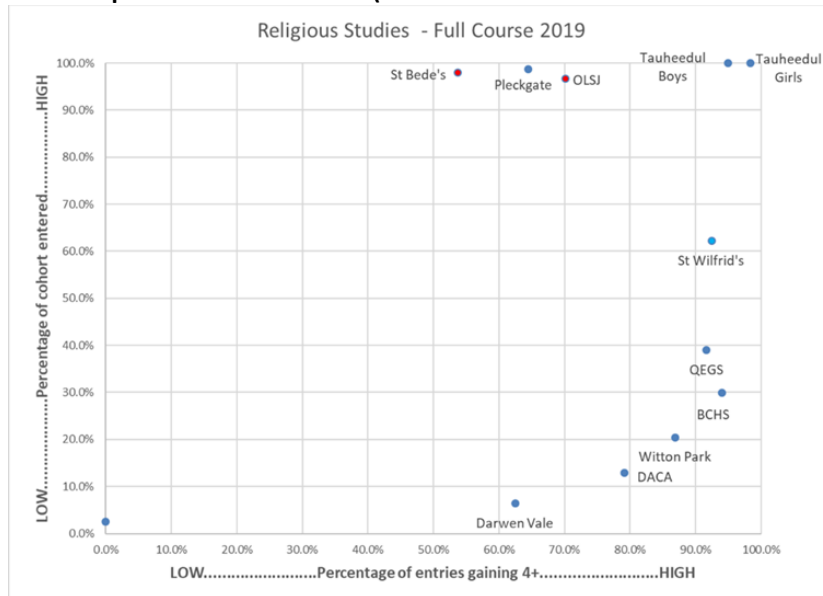
#### Summary of 2019 entries:

FULL COURSE	2019		SHORT COURSE	2019
	Academy	Voluntary Aided		St Wilfrid's
NOR	1510	334	NOR	235
Number of entries	761	325	Number of entries	86
Number of 5+	587	135	Number of 5+	47
% Entered Gaining 5+	77.1%	41.5%	% Entered Gaining 5+	54.7%
Number of 4+	641	198	Number of 4+	58
% Entered Gaining 4+	84.2%	60.9%	% Entered Gaining 4+	67.4%
% of NOR entered	50.4%	97.3%	% of NOR entered	36.6%

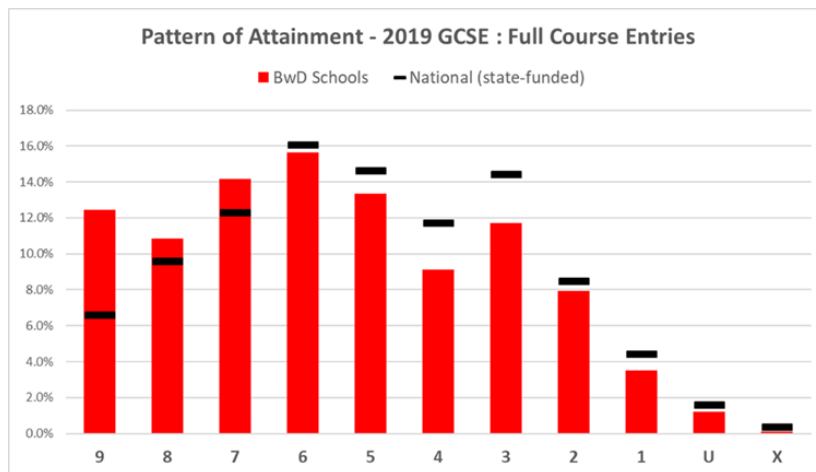
The two remaining VA schools are highlighted on the school by school breakdown below.

	2019 FULL												2019 SHORT
	Darwen Vale	QEGS	St Wilfrid's	Tauheedul Boys	Tauheedul Girls	The Heights	BCHS	OLSJ	Witton Park	DACA	Pleckgate	St Bede's	St Wilfrid's
NOR	126	123	235	98	120	39	167	146	186	185	231	188	235
Number of entries	8	48	146	98	120	1	50	141	38	24	228	184	86
Number of 5+	4	41	130	91	115	0	45	65	27	19	115	70	47
% Entered Gaining 5+	50.0%	85.4%	89.0%	92.9%	95.8%	0.0%	90.0%	46.1%	71.1%	79.2%	50.4%	38.0%	54.7%
Number of 4+	5	44	135	93	118	0	47	99	33	19	147	99	58
% Entered Gaining 4+	62.5%	91.7%	92.5%	94.9%	98.3%	0.0%	94.0%	70.2%	86.8%	79.2%	64.5%	53.8%	67.4%
% of NOR entered	6.3%	39.0%	62.1%	100.0%	100.0%	2.6%	29.9%	96.6%	20.4%	13.0%	98.7%	97.9%	36.6%

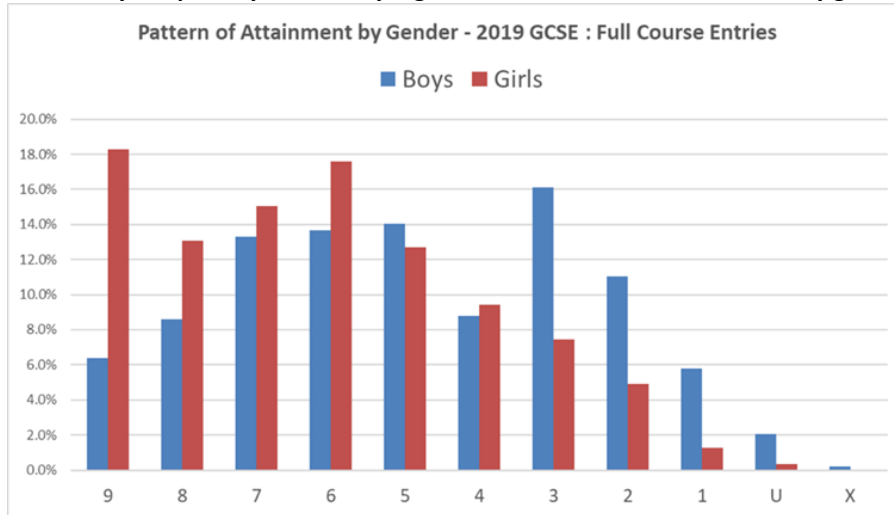
The below graph shows the relationship between the percentage of the cohort entered and the percentage achieving at least a standard pass on the full course. (Short course entries are not included here)



The below graph shows the distribution of grades in BwD compared with the national average. This shows that not only did schools in Blackburn with Darwen achieve well in the threshold measures, they also had many more pupils achieving the highest grades, with nearly twice as many achieving a Grade 9 as the national average.



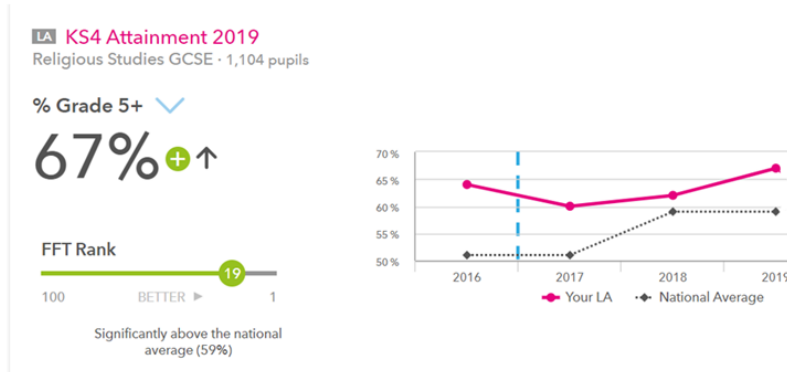
Girls generally outperformed boys, especially at the very highest level, with three times as many girls achieving the top grade.



However, both boys and girls outperformed their counterparts nationally. In fact, every group of pupils in the borough (with one exception) did better, and often significantly better than similar pupils nationally regardless of prior attainment, deprivation, or gender. Only White British heritage pupils underperformed compared to similar pupils, with both attainment and progress significantly below the national average.

Although it is difficult to compare year-on-year attainment due to the change to 9-1 grades, it is clear the pupils in the borough have consistently outperformed the national average over time.

## 2016 – 2019 Religious Studies GCSE

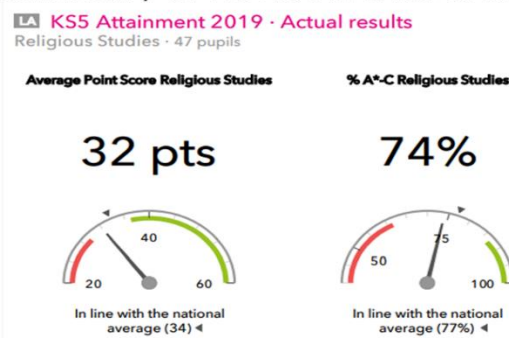


Includes Full course and Short course entries. The time series should be treated as indicative only. FFT Aspire have recalculated previous years taking legacy GCSE grades into account.

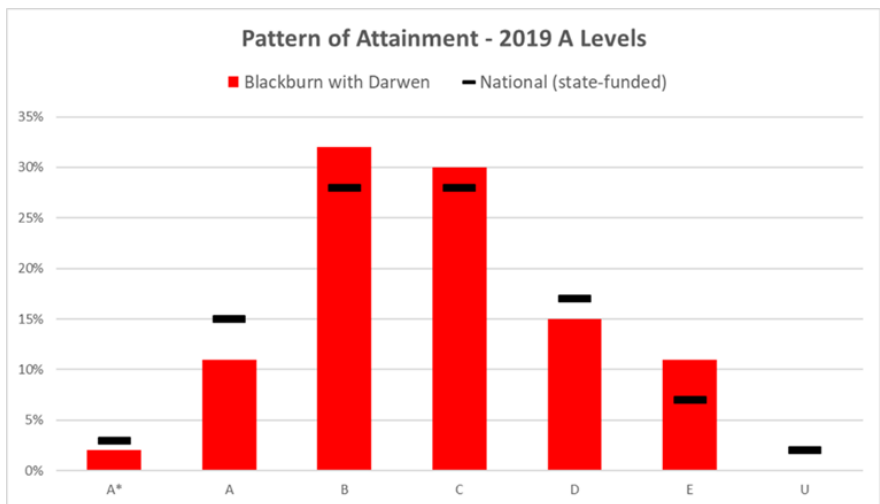
### Key Stage 5

At Key Stage 5, performance is in line with the national average. There were 47 entries in 2019 for the Religious Studies A level, and 74% of those students achieved an A\*-C grade.

### Summary of 2019 A Level entries



The grade distribution below shows the percentage of entries achieving each grade in red compared with the national average (black line).



The table below outlines performance by setting, with DACA performing particularly well; all four entries achieved a B grade or higher, followed by Tauheedul Girls with 72.7% achieving a B or higher.

Religious Studies				
A Level	2019			
	Number of entries	% A*-B	% A*-E	Avg Pts
National	15840	50.5%	98.0%	34.3
Blackburn College	10	40.0%	100.0%	31
Darwen Aldridge Community Academy	4	100.0%	100.0%	42.5
St Mary's College	10	30.0%	100.0%	26
St Wilfrid's Church of England Academy	12	16.7%	100.0%	26.7
Tauheedul Islam Girls' High School	11	72.7%	100.0%	41.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>44.7%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>32.3</b>

### Summary of 2019 AS Level entries

AS Level	2019			
	Number of entries	% A-B	% A-E	Avg Pts
National	7010	36.4%	87.8%	13.7
Blackburn College	1	0.0%	0.0%	0
Darwen Aldridge Community Academy	11	45.5%	72.7%	12.7
Tauheedul Islam Girls' High School	34	79.4%	97.1%	19.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>69.6%</b>	<b>87.2%</b>	<b>17.7</b>
AS Level (taken at Key Stage 4)	Number of entries	% A-B	% A-E	Avg Pts
Witton Park Academy	19	31.6%	89.5%	6.0

There were also 65 AS level entries in 2019. 6th form students at DACA and Tauheedul Girls again significantly outperformed the national average in the percentage achieving A\*-B grades.

## General Comments

It is our intention in 2021-2022 to:

- Promote the achievement of the RE quality mark in our schools.
- Audit our school websites and share good practice regarding RE in schools.
- Commit to invite ITT representation to SACRE to engage in both partnership and dialogue. This will be pertinent as the agreed syllabus is redesigned and launched and will be a vehicle for delivery. Engagement will be with Teaching School Hubs, TEAMS School Direct and STAR RE PGCE together with our Universities, Edge Hill, and Cumbria.

## **4. Collective Worship**

The current collective worship policy and materials were launched 2009. We intend to update the secondary collective worship guidance in 2021 and the primary in 2022.

This year our SACRE have worked tirelessly to review and relaunch the clear procedure already established, to ensure an efficient response to any request for determination. The procedure and protocol for dealing with any requests for determination is now in place. All maintained schools currently who have a determination or may need to renew have been identified. The RSC and ESFA have also been contacted to ascertain the status of worship included in the agreements of academies and free schools.

In Autumn Term 2021 the Consultant will be working with the Chair of SACRE to model the process of review with the identified maintained schools who wish to apply for a determination.

SACRE have not received any withdrawals by phase or complaints.

## **5. Links with other bodies**

SACRE is a member of NATRE, NASACRE and members actively attend conferences. We are currently planning our CPD engagement for 21-22.

The Chair of SACRE is currently the commissioned lead for School Effectiveness in Blackburn with Darwen and was previously teaching school lead and a system leader. As School Effectiveness lead and current Chair of the School Improvement Board, she has regular communication opportunities with teaching School hubs, Diocesan representatives, headteachers, CEO's, Professional Association representatives. In all these meetings she can and does promote SACRE.

In 2021 the Chair has been given opportunities to communicate with the headteachers to generate interest around SACRE through face to face meetings, termly presentations and bulletin inserts. There is a real "buzz and chat" around the potential for new developments.

Governors too are being kept informed via bulletin updates and Director's Reports.

## **6. Blackburn with Darwen, SACRE's local arrangements**

At the beginning of the academic year the deputy director of children's services, Jo Siddle, made a firm commitment to re-establish a high quality SACRE, to ensure that the Local Authority was properly able to meet its statutory duties. To demonstrate this commitment, they have appointed a Clerk, Sharifa Valli to SACRE. They are funding the independent consultant Dot Thomson and provide support for the website design and upkeep from IT services. Legal Support is also provided each meeting by either Paula Johnson, Solicitor, or Gillian Emmott, Solicitor, from Democratic Services. They have also allocated £15,000 as budget for 21-22.

Induction support will be provided each September to all new members who have joined and will be a refresher for existing members.

The Agreed Syllabus review, as previously stated, has begun in earnest. We have established a timetable to be discussed by SACRE in September. We will then devise a schedule of work to be undertaken.



People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2021

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**Blackburn with Darwen  
Highlight Presentation Peer Challenge**

**Effective understanding, recognition and response to neglect**

21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021





**the remote challenge focused on the ‘Effective understanding, recognition and response to neglect’ – including**

Leadership, management, and culture including vision and strategy

Capacity and managing resources – are leaders creating the right environment for good social work practice?

Effective practice, service delivery and the voice of the child – including impact on outcomes for children and families

## Peer Review in numbers

Reviewers  
days of remote challenge

**0 cases** audited

**0 people** spoke with reviewers (council staff & Elected Members, external partners and stakeholders)

**5 meetings** to gather information and views, including focus groups and observations, and additional research and reading

**55 hours** collectively spent by reviewers to determine their findings – the equivalent of one person spending nearly 7 weeks in BWD

# Partnership Working on Neglect

## Review Lead Inspector feedback:

***“The education community, voluntary and faith organisations and the third sector have worked with the Council to support families through these unprecedented and challenging times”***

## Multi-agency approach:

BWLD we are determined to reduce the prevalence and the impact of child poverty in the borough and we aim to embed a multi-agency approach to neglect throughout the borough.

## Challenges:

**82%** of open *Child in Need cases* have a primary need of Neglect or Abuse (June 2021)

**41%** of *Child Protection Plans* have a category of Neglect (June 2021)

**12,639 (37%)** of children aged 0-16 live in 'relative low income' households in BWLD

**Covid 19** - since the start of the pandemic there has been an **increase in the number of individuals & families needing support** in the borough as a result of growing poverty and isolation.

## Partnership Strengths:

- ✓ Neglect Champions are embedded across the partnership to ensure that relevant information is cascaded to partner agencies
- ✓ Rolling programme of Neglect Training and Graded Care Profile training available for partner agencies and staff
- ✓ Strong and well-embedded relationships across partner agencies who are engaged in driving strategic ambition for children

## More to do:

### **Reinforce that ‘neglect is everybody’s business’**

- **How can partners further support the Neglect Strategy** including Primary Care, Public Health and across the education community?
- **Focus partnership energy and effort into the implementation of the S Well strategy** to ensure effective prevention, early identification, and intervention for children vulnerable to neglect.
- **Further work needed with partner agencies to ensure the strategy is fully embedded across the wider partnership.**

# Voice of Practitioners

In conversation with reviewers, staff described working in BWD as:

*a “refreshing culture”*

*“a positive learning culture which is led from the top”*

*“there is no hierarchical hegemony here”*

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*Staff are encouraged to say, “I’ve never done this before, can someone help me out?”*

*Many staff spoke enthusiastically about “a systemic model of social work and an environment in which good social work can thrive”*

*Case auditors reported that “Almost all staff seen were confident & professional, and were able to articulate their casework & their positive experience of working for the LA”*

# Strengths

## **BUSINESS AS USUAL DURING COVID:**

Despite a “prolonged and extreme impact of the pandemic the council and partners have demonstrated a determined approach of ‘business as usual’ as far as possible in these extraordinary times.”

## **LEADERSHIP:**

‘Leadership is impressive in Blackburn with Darwen – keep doing what you are doing’  
‘consistent and very powerful messages about the strength of leadership and governance’

## **PARTNERSHIPS & INTEGRATION:**

‘Strong and well embedded relationships across partner agencies is driving strategic ambition for children’  
‘Strong bond of honesty in relationships with schools’  
‘BWD has “an integrated, creative & tenacious approach to building relationships and working with young people underpinned by the Adolescent Strategy”

## **GOVERNANCE:**

‘The vision provides a golden thread that runs from frontline practice through to corporate governance arrangements and is underpinned by a systemic model of social work. Political leaders are highly informed’

## **CASELOAD MANAGEMENT – THE CHILDREN’S ADVICE & DUTY SERVICE EFFECT**

Reduced caseloads are now enabling more direct work with children and families which is supported by effective supervision arrangements and strong management oversight.

# Key recommendations

## PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT:

**criticise the development of performance management reporting and analysis**

improve and modernise performance management information systems to

- provide real time data to support oversight of cases and timely decisions
- give a more informed understanding of the prevalence of neglect across the continuum of need

## EFFECT & OUTCOMES:

**improve understanding and evidence impact of services on outcomes for children and families**

identify the key measures of success across the continuum of need and evaluate the impact of the Neglect strategy against these.

## CULTURE & IDENTITY:

**make the significance and impact of culture and identity a more prominent feature in assessments & care plans**

Better address diversity, community identity and family traditions through meaningful conversations and demonstrate in all records to fully reflect the child's lived experience.

## Key recommendations - continued

### **PUBLIC LAW OUTLINE (PLO) :**

**Strengthen systems to promote the timely progress of cases in PLO** including:

reviewing the number of trackers and role of Legal Gateway Meeting in oversight of all cases

### **FURTHER ENQUIRY TO BETTER UNDERSTAND IMPACT:**

**Repeat & short-term child protection plans where neglect is a feature require further enquiry**

to enable a better understanding of the impact of the Neglect Strategy in decision-making.

### **CHILD'S LIVED EXPERIENCE:**

**Further develop a holistic approach to the child's lived experience of neglect including evaluating evidence and capacity for sustained change beyond consideration of physical conditions**

Routinely feature and analyse the impact of poverty and the pandemic in children's and young people's assessments and plans.

# Case Audit findings to examine: Effective Practice, Service Delivery & Voice

reviewers audited 20 cases concluded that:

The needs of children are well understood with consistent evidence of the voice of the child being apparent in an impressive and broad ranging Family Support offer, including a range of highly regarded support services provided in the voluntary sector.

The Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) is becoming embedded in practice & underpinning a better understanding of the child's lived experience and inform the focus of care plans

The quality and timeliness of assessments with an increased focus on the child's lived experience is improving  
The roll out of the Risk Sensible Model is supporting improved analysis and assessment in care planning

Areas for improvement:

Ensure that the Neglect Strategy is fully understood across Primary Care

Increase engagement of General Practitioners in strategy discussions & child protection conferences

Better recording in children's assessments and plans to demonstrate

- the impact of poverty and the pandemic on the child and family

- the significance and impact of the child's culture, identity, and family traditions

Pre-birth assessments would benefit from "a bespoke assessment tool that would promote a holistic multi agency

assessment of the child's needs and parenting capacity"

Improve the timeliness of child protection conference minutes – to drive care plan

# What Next?

**Partnership recommendations** from the Peer Review will be driven through the **Children's Partnership Board** and the **Neglect Champions sub group**

**Children's Services recommendations** will be actioned and monitored via the strategic **Service Development Board & Practice Improvement Operational Group** -  
"Outstanding Practice" priority

**Ofsted ILACS Inspection of Children's Services** - preparation is underway to implement the recommendations in advance of the inspection.





**Any Questions?**