



Report of the activities of the Association 2013 – 2014

1. The Association met on three occasions: 19 June 2013 in Caernarfon, 10 October 2013 in Rhondda Cynon Taf, and 27 March 2014 in Caerphilly. We are grateful to the hosting SACREs for their generous hospitality.

2. The Executive Committee met on three occasions: 4 October 2013 in Nantgarw, 4 February 2014 in Cardiff, and 14 May 2014 in Cardiff.

The Executive Committee had a full agenda throughout the year that included:

- (a) preparing and organising the WASACRE national conference *REsourcing National Priorities in Wales* for 10 October 2013;
- (b) discussing strategies for future training events offered through WASACRE;
- (c) receiving, discussing and circulating to SACREs the Welsh Government publication *Review of SACRE Reports (2008-2011)*;
- (d) supporting and publicising the continued development of the RE Quality Mark (REQM) for Wales;
- (e) receiving, discussing and circulating the Estyn Thematic Review for Religious Education;
- (f) discussing and supporting the provision on WASACRE website of information relating to peer-reviewed RE in Wales research material;
- (g) receiving information of a research article based on *SACREs and the Local Community: report of the WASACRE survey of SACREs in Wales* is published in the journal *Contemporary Wales* (2014);
- (h) working to re-establish a Welsh Government contact for WASACRE;
- (i) responding to the Welsh Government Curriculum Review, phase 1 (January 2014);
- (j) meeting with Professor Donaldson in Cardiff in order to contribute to his 'Call for Evidence' in relation to the Curriculum Review and Religious Education (June 2014);
- (k) arranging and facilitating the Annual General Meeting of the RE Council for England and Wales in Cardiff in May 2014, including the presence of the Minister for Education in Wales, Huw Lewis;

- (l) discussing and responding to questions received in relation to membership of SACREs and Religious Education;
- (m) representing WASACRE on committees and events of relevance to the work of the Association, for example, the RE Council for England and Wales, NAPfRE, EFTRE (the European Forum for Teachers of Religious Education), the Inter Faith Network for the UK, the Cross Party Group on Faith (Wales).

6. Accounts. The Treasurer's Report for the 2013/2013 financial year. During the year, expenditure exceeded income by £1,469.31 (however, three subscriptions had not yet been received, thereby reducing the overspend to £245.31). Spending has been higher during this year as a result of the KS3 training offered through WASACRE. The financial year began with a balance of £18,812.88 and ended with a balance of £17,343.57. The finances of WASACRE, therefore, remain in a healthy position, and this will assist WASACRE in funding its planned activities. Members received and adopted the statement of accounts.

Members accepted the Treasurer's recommendation that the annual subscription per SACRE for membership of WASACRE during 2013/2014 financial year be set at £418, which represents an uplift of 2.08% on the 2011/2012 subscription.

7. New members of the Executive Committee. At the summer 2013 AGM, it was confirmed that the Vice Chair, Tania ap Sion would take the position of Chair of the Association and Gavin Craigen would take the position of Vice Chair of the Association. Two members were elected to the Executive Committee for the period of 2013-2016: Mark Brown (Conwy) and Mary Parry (Carmarthenshire). A third position arose on the Executive Committee and was filled by Michael Gray for 2013-2014. The Executive accepted the resignations of Brian Rogers (Rhondda Cynon Taf) and Mark Brown (Conwy).

8. NAPfRE and WASACRE presentations. The Association received interesting and valuable presentations from:

- Phil Lord – RE Quality Mark for Wales
- Mary Parry – The Estyn Thematic Review
- Michael Strange – RE Quest online resource
- Libby Jones and Gill Vaisey – WASACRE Conference
- Tudor Thomas – WJEC developments

There were fewer presentations this year because the Autumn meeting of the Association was placed directly after the WASACRE conference in October 2013 and did not include the usual presentations.

WALES ASSOCIATION OF SACREs
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2nd July, 2014

REPORT BY: **Treasurer**

SUBJECT: **Report for 2013/2014 Financial Year**

REPORT FOR: **Information and Decision**

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2013/2014

Attached as an appendix to this report is the audited Statement of Accounts for the 2013/2014 financial year. Members will note that, during the year, expenditure exceeded income by £2831.80. However, at the end of the financial year, three subscriptions had not been received and, if they had been paid at that point, this would have reduced the overspend in year by £1251.00, leaving an overspend in year of £1580.80. This is the second year when expenditure has exceeded income while in the previous three years there have been substantial underspends. The last occasion, prior to last year when there was a substantial overspend in year was 2008/2009 and members will recall that, in that financial year, WASACRE met the majority of the costs of the National Post 16 Conference. The financial year commenced with a balance of £17343.57 and ended with a balance of £14511.77. The finances of WASACRE, therefore, remain in a healthy condition, although they represent a reduction on the position at the end of 2012/2013 by £2831.80. WASACRE is, therefore, in a strong position to fund its planned activities.

a) **Receipts**

As in previous years, the main source of income for WASACRE during 2013/2014 has been the annual subscriptions paid by member SACREs. Members will recall that, at the 2001 Annual General Meeting of WASCRE, it was decided to raise the level of subscriptions by the level of inflation on an annual basis. The annual subscription, therefore, for 2013/2014 was £417 which has resulted in an income of £7923. This figure represents the subscriptions of 19 SACREs as 3 SACREs had not paid their subscriptions by 31st March, 2014. It is pleasing to report that these subscriptions have now been paid and the late subscriptions will be recorded in the 2014/2015 accounts. Members will note that, in addition to the 2013/2014 annual subscriptions, three subscriptions for 2012/2013, at £408 each, were also included in these accounts as their payments were actually received in the current financial year, rather than 2012/2013.

The other annual source of income for WASACRE has been bank interest and this amounted to £3.87 in 2013/2014, an increase of 7 pence on the amount received in 2012/2013. It is hoped that the interest paid on the WASACRE accounts will improve again in the future but it will be some time before significant income is received through bank interest.

b) **Expenditure**

During 2013/2014, the main areas of expenditure were as follows:-

The most significant level of expenditure, during 2013/2014, related to the WASACRE Conference, held during the Autumn, 2013, and the total amount spent on the Conference was £4019.04. Members will recall that this was an excellent event and much appreciated by all who attended. The presentations and workshops were of a very high standard and the Conference has played an important part in raising the profile of WASACRE within Wales. This is an important example of the role that WASACRE can play in the support of Religious Education.

During the year, the sum of £600.00 was paid for support of the WASACRE website. Members will agree that the WASACRE website is an excellent resource and has been valuable in raising the profile of the organisation and as a source of information in relation to Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Payment of an honorarium to the Secretary amounted to £1500. Members will recall that the secretary is entitled to receive an honorarium of £1500 per year and this payment was again made in 2013/2014. Only a small sum was claimed during the year for secretarial costs (£3.70) so it is possible that a more significant sum will be claimed during 2014/2015. However, costs have been reduced through the electronic circulation of papers for meetings and placement of papers and documents on the website.

A further expense, during the year, related to the costs of convening meetings of WASACRE. This amounted to £1874.69, compared with £1585.73 in 2012/2013, £517.53 in 2011/2012 and £871.73 in 2010/2011, and it reflects the termly meetings of WASACRE and its Executive Committee. Although costs of holding meetings are rising, the costs are particularly high this year because the costs have included presenters' travel expenses and supply cover to release presenters from school as well as the costs of simultaneous translation at one of the termly meetings. The cost of room hire amounted to £43.00, compared with £168.37 in 2012/2013, while the cost of translation of documents amounted to £912.91, compared with £1417.36, in 2012/2013.

The amount spent on Officers' travel/accommodation in 2012/2013 amounted to £2764.70 compared with £675.35 in 2012/2013. This represents a significant increase and reflects a higher level of travel. For example, it includes attendance of the WASACRE representative at the European Forum for Teachers of Religious Education Board Meeting, held in Vienna.

During 2013/2014, WASACRE has continued to make a contribution towards the costs of the publication of REflections within RE News and circulation of individual copies of REflections for inclusion in the WASACRE binders supplied to all SACREs. However, with the replacement of RE News with a

website and the end of circulation of Reflections, it is anticipated that this contribution will not be requested in 2014/2015.

During the year, WASACRE also funded the translation of the Religious Education Quality Mark documents into Welsh so that they could be accessible to all schools in Wales and the cost of this translation amounted to £515.82. This represents further tangible support for the teaching of Religious Education in Wales.

In addition to the above, WASACRE has paid a total of £184.00 in subscriptions. This represents payment of the subscription to the RE Council for 2012/2013 and 2013/2014. There are two payments in the same financial year as both invoices were received during the same year. No invoices have been received during the 2013/2014 financial year for subscriptions to the European Forum for Teachers of Religious Education or the Interfaith Network and it is anticipated that they will be received in 2014/2015.

Members are invited to receive and adopt the attached statement of accounts.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 2014/2015

In considering an appropriate annual subscription per SACRE for membership of WASACRE during the 2014/2015 financial year, members will recall that the decision was taken at the 2001 Annual General Meeting of WASACRE that, in future, the subscription to WASACRE would be increased in line with inflation.

It is important for WASACRE to follow this practice in order to ensure that sufficient resources are available to meet the ongoing costs of WASACRE activities, including meeting expenses, secretarial costs, officers' expenses, officers' honoraria and subscriptions. In addition, WASACRE needs to have sufficient resources available to meet the costs of further All Wales events, such as the National Conference, held in October, 2013, and to enable it to become involved in other initiatives for the support of Religious Education and Collective Worship across Wales such as the provision of further training. Although the WASACRE finances are currently in a healthy state, it is important that a substantial balance is maintained if WASACRE is to be able to, with confidence, arrange further national events.

In the light of the above and the decision at the 2001 Annual General Meeting, that, in future, the subscription to WASACRE be increased in line with inflation, it is

RECOMMENDED that the annual subscription per SACRE for membership of WASACRE during the 2014/2015 financial year, be set at £422, which represents an uplift of 1% on the 2013/2014 subscription.

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

Members will recall that the following arrangements for the payment of expenses were agreed at the 2013 Annual General Meeting of WASACRE for 2013/2014:-

- I. Payment of 45 pence per mile to officers undertaking business on behalf of WASACRE where they are unable to claim from their local SACREs and reimbursement at the same level for speakers contributing to WASACRE meetings;
- II. reimbursement to officers of actual parking costs, where incurred, in relation to the conduct of WASACRE business;
- III. where public transport is used rather than private car, reimbursement of actual rail/coach fares up to the level of standard fare on the understanding that advantage of saver arrangements would be taken wherever possible;
- IV. reimbursement of subsistence costs in respect of officers of WASACRE and speakers at WASACRE meetings at the following levels:-
 - breakfast - £4.50 (to qualify for a breakfast allowance, an officer must have left home before 7.00 am);
 - lunch - £6.00 (to qualify for a lunch allowance, an officer must be away from home before noon and after 2.00 pm);
 - tea - £2.50 (to qualify for a tea allowance, an officer must be away from home until after 6.30 pm);
 - evening meal - £7.50 (to qualify for an evening meal allowance, an officer must be away from home until after 8.30 pm);
- V. reimbursement of actual costs of overnight accommodation on the understanding that reasonable costs are incurred; and
- VI in relation to teachers being released from school to make presentations at meetings of WASACRE, WASACRE will fund up to one full day's supply cover. In the event of this proving inadequate, early contact must be made with the Treasurer, who will be given discretion to agree a higher level of supply cover in consultation with either the Chairman or Vice Chairman.

It is

RECOMMENDED that the above arrangements, agreed for 2013/2014, be maintained for 2014/2015.



Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAAGau Cymru, Powys (Siambr y Cyngor, Neuadd y Sir, Llandrindod), 2 Gorffennaf 2014 (10.30am – 3pm)

Wales Association of SACREs meeting, Powys (Council Chamber, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells), 2 July 2014 (10.30am – 3pm)

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| Ynys Môn / Anglesey Bethan James Rheinallt Thomas Blaenau Gwent Gill Vaisey Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend Caerffili/ Caerphilly Cllr John Taylor Vicky Thomas Ruth Gray Cllr Michael Gray Caerdydd / Cardiff Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire Mary Parry Helen Gibbon Gwyneth Thomas Ceredigion Conwy Phil Lord | Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire Phil Lord Gavin Craigen Sir y Fflint / Flintshire Phil Lord Gwynedd Bethan James Miriam Amllyn Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil Y Cyngh./Cllr Ernie Galsworthy Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire Gill Vaisey Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot Casnewydd / Newport Vicky Thomas Huw Stephens Sally Northcott Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire Huw George Powys John Mitson Christine Robinson | Rhondda Cynon Taf Abertawe / Swansea Vicky Thomas Torfaen Vicky Thomas Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan Dafydd Treharne Wrecsam / Wrexham Libby Jones Sylwedyddion / Observers Tudor Thomas (CBAC/WJEC) |
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Cofnodion / Minutes

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| <p>1. Cyflwyniad a chroeso</p> <p>Estynnodd y Cyngh. Roche Davies groeso cynnes i'r aelodau i Bowys a dywedodd ei fod wrth ei fodd bod y cyfarfod yn cael ei gynnal yn ystod ei gyfnod yn y swydd. Pwysleisiodd fod AG yn bwnc unigryw gan ei fod yn cael ei bennu'n lleol a'i bod yn dda ganddo ddweud ei fod yn bwnc poblogaidd yn ysgolion Powys, gan gynnwys ar lefel TGAU. Estynnodd y Cyngh. Roche ei ddymuniadau gorau i'r aelodau ar gyfer y prif gyfarfod a'r CCB y prynhawn yma.</p> <p>Fe gymerodd yr Is-gadeirydd, Gavin Craigen, yr awenau fel cadeirydd y cyfarfod a diolchodd i'r Cyngh. Davies am ei eiriau ac am letya'r digwyddiad.</p> <p>2. Adfyfrio tawel</p> <p>Gofynnodd Gavin Craigen i'r aelodau fyfrio ar eu rôl o ran sicrhau addysg grefyddol o safon sy'n effeithiol, a pha mor hanfodol yw AG heddiw mewn cyfnod pan fo cymaint o eithafiaeth dreisgar yn digwydd.</p> <p>3. Ymddiheuriadau</p> <p>Tania ap Sion, Jen Malcolm, Edward Evans, Sue Cave, Carys Pritchard, Ernie Glasworthy, Meinir Loader, Y Cyngh. Cllr Michael Williams, Wyn Meredith, Dave Mackie, Nicholas Richter, Tim Rowlands. (Mark Durbin)</p> <p>4. Cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd yng Nghaerffili, 27 Mawrth 2014</p> <p>T4. Eitem 6. Cafwyd trafodaeth am y trefniadau newydd ar gyfer gwefan RENews a chodwyd cwestiynau ynglŷn â sut y bwriedir rhoi cyhoeddusrwydd i'r wefan. Cadarnhawyd na fydd cyfrinair o fis Medi ac felly y bydd unrhyw un yn gallu mynd ar y wefan o hynny ymlaen. Awgrymwyd rhoi dolen o wefan CCYSAGauC i wefan</p> | <p>1. Introduction and welcome</p> <p>Cllr Roche Davies gave members a warm welcome to Powys and said how delighted he was that the meeting was being held within his term of office. He emphasised how RE is a unique subject as it is locally determined and that he was pleased to say it is a popular subject in Powys schools, including at GCSE level. Cllr Roche gave his best wishes to members for the main meeting and the AGM this afternoon.</p> <p>Vice Chair, Gavin Craigen chaired the meeting and thanked Cllr Davies for his words and for hosting the event.</p> <p>2. Quiet reflection</p> <p>Gavin Craigen asked members to reflect on their role in ensuring quality religious education that is effective, and how vital RE is today in a time when so much violent extremism takes place.</p> <p>3. Apologies</p> <p>Tania ap Sion, Jen Malcolm, Edward Evans, Sue Cave, Carys Pritchard, Ernie Glasworthy, Meinir Loader, Y Cyngh. Cllr Michael Williams, Wyn Meredith, Dave Mackie, Nicholas Richter, Tim Rowlands. (Mark Durbin)</p> <p>4. Minutes of meeting held in Caerphilly, 27 March 2014</p> <p>P4. Item 6. A discussion regarding the new RENews website arrangements took place and questions were raised as to how the website will be publicised. It was confirmed that there will be no password from September and therefore anyone can access the website from then on. A link from the WASACRE website to the RENews website</p> |
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| <p>RENews a chafodd yr awgrym dderbyniad da gan yr aelodau. T6. Eitem 9. Cadarnhaodd Phil Lord fod hysbyslenni ar gyfer y Marc Ansawdd Addysg Grefyddol yn barod a'u bod wedi cael eu hanfon at y CYSAGau. Mae Phil wrthi'n llunio llythyr i egluro sut y gellir defnyddio'r marc ansawdd ac anogodd y CYSAGau eraill i wneud yr un modd. Mae Vicky Thomas a Gill Vaisey eisoes wedi gwneud hyn yn y CYSAGau y maent hwy'n eu gwasanaethu ac amlygodd Vicky ddefnyddioldeb y Marc Ansawdd Addysg Grefyddol fel erfyn hunanarfarnu i athrawon hyd yn oed os nad ydynt yn mynd am y marc llawn a phwysigrwydd sicrhau bod yr wybodaeth yn cyrraedd y person cywir yn yr ysgol. Dywedodd Gavin Craigen y byddai'n ddefnyddiol iawn cael adborth gan ysgolion o ran pa mor ddefnyddiol yw'r Marc Ansawdd Addysg Grefyddol a sut y maent hwy wedi'i ddefnyddio. Gallai hyn gael ei rannu wedyn gyda'r CYSAGau i gyd i gael ei gylchredeg i'w hysgolion. T7. Eitem 10. Cywirodd Libby Jones y sillafiad o OFQUAL yn y cofnodion.</p> | <p>was suggested and well received by members. P6. Item 9. Phil Lord confirmed that flyers for REQM are ready and have been sent to SACREs. Phil is putting together a letter to explain how the quality mark can be used and encouraged other SACREs to do the same. Vicky Thomas and Gill Vaisey have already done this in the SACREs they service and Vicky highlighted the usefulness of the REQM as a self-evaluation tool for teachers even if they do not go for the mark and the importance of the information reaching the right person in school. Gavin Craigen pointed out how helpful feedback from schools would be about how useful the REQM is and how they have used it. This could then be shared with all SACREs for circulation to their schools. P7. Item 10. Libby Jones corrected the spelling of OFQUAL in the minutes.</p> |
| <p>Cafodd y cofnodion eu derbyn fel cofnod cywir o'r cyfarfod. Cynigiwyd hyn gan Phil Lord gyda Michael Gray yn eilio.</p> | <p>The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. This was proposed by Phil Lord and seconded by Michael Gray.</p> |
| <p>5. Diweddariadau:</p> <p>(a) CCB y Cyngor AG yng Nghaerdydd Yn ei adborth dywedodd Gavin Craigen fod yr araith groeso a draddodwyd gan y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau, Huw Lewis, wedi cael derbyniad cadarnhaol iawn gan aelodau o'r Cyngor AG (Roedd copi o'r araith wedi'i gynnwys ym mhapurau cyfarfod CCYSAGauC). Roedd yr araith yn cyfleu neges gadarnhaol am Addysg Grefyddol yng Nghymru a chan mai hon oedd yr araith gyntaf gan y Gweinidog a oedd yn cynnwys unrhyw beth am AG roedd yn galonogol iawn. Diweddodd y Gweinidog ei araith trwy wahodd ymateb gan y Cyngor AG i'r adolygiad cyfredol o'r cwricwlwm yng Nghymru. Cytunodd y CAG i gysylltu â CCYSAGauC cyn anfon ymateb at</p> | <p>5. Up-dates:</p> <p>(a) RE Council AGM in Cardiff In his feedback Gavin Craigen described the welcome speech given by the Minister for Education and Skills, Huw Lewis as being positively received by members of the RE Council (A copy of the speech was included in the WASACRE papers). The speech sent a positive message about Religious Education in Wales and as this was the Minister's first speech that included anything about RE it was very encouraging. The Minister ended his speech by inviting a response from the RE Council to the current curriculum review in Wales. The REC agreed to liaise with WASACRE before sending a response to Welsh Government. Following that meeting a request was sent by WASACRE to the</p> |

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| <p>Lywodraeth Cymru. Yn dilyn y cyfarfod hwnnw anfonodd CCYSAGauC gais i swyddfa'r Gweinidog yn gofyn am gael bod yn rhan o'r adolygiad hwnnw. Caniatawyd y cais a gwahoddwyd cynrychiolwyr o Bwyllgor Gwaith CCYSAGauC i gyfarfod ar ddydd Gwener 20 Mehefin 2014 gyda'r Athro Graham Donaldson sy'n arwain yr adolygiad. Roedd negeseuon allweddol eraill o CCB y CAG yn cynnwys y cwestiwn parhaus ynglŷn â chynrychiolaeth ar y bwrdd ar gyfer Cymru. Tania ap Sion a Gavin Craigen yw'r cynrychiolwyr ar hyn o bryd, ac mae'r CAG yn ymchwilio i'r posibilrwydd o sicrhau cynrychiolaeth fwy hyblyg yn y dyfodol. Mae CCYSAGauC yn gohebu ar hyn o bryd gyda'r CAG i sicrhau y ceir cynrychiolaeth deg ac effeithiol ar gyfer Cymru. Dywedodd Rheinallt Thomas wrth yr aelodau bod aelodau yng nghyfarfod diweddar Cyngor yr Eglwysi Rhyddion wedi cael eu cymell a'u calonogi gan araith Huw Lewis ac o ganlyniad i hynny bod llythyr wedi cael ei anfon yn annog holl aelodau'r Eglwysi Rhyddion i ysgrifennu at Lywodraeth Cymru i ofyn am gefnogaeth well i CYSAAGau ac i bwysleisio'r angen am ymgynghorwyr AG, gan dynnu sylw at y ffaith bod yr egwyddorion yn araith y Gweinidog mewn perygl o gael eu colli oherwydd newidiadau mewn consortia. Cadarnhaodd Rheinallt fod sawl llythyr wedi mynd oddi wrth Gyngor yr Eglwysi Rhyddion. Ychwanegodd Vicky Thomas fod athrawon wedi cael eu calonogi gan ei sylwadau, ond bod angen i Lywodraeth Cymru gael ei hatgoffa ohonynt. Dim ond gyda hyfforddiant da, DPP priodol a chefnogaeth a ddarperir gan Awdurdodau Lleol y mae addysg grefyddol o safon dda'n digwydd. Bydd copi o araith y Gweinidog yn cael ei gadw ar ffeil i gael ei ddefnyddio ar adegau priodol. Daeth Gavin Craigen â'r drafodaeth i ben trwy gadarnhau bod llythyr o ymateb oddi wrth y Gweinidog wedi ateb cais CCYSAGauC i gwrdd â'r gweinidog yn flynyddol, fel yr oeddem yn ei wneud gyda Leighton Andrews. Roedd y llythyr yn datgan yr hoffai Huw Lewis ystyried adfer y</p> | <p>Minister's office asking to be part of that review. The request was granted and representatives from the WASACRE Executive committee were invited to a meeting on Friday, 20 June 2014, with Professor Graham Donaldson who is leading the review. Other key messages from the REC AGM included the ongoing issue about representation on the board for Wales. Currently the representatives are Tania ap Sion and Gavin Craigen, the REC are looking in to the possibility of securing a more flexible representation in future. WASACRE is in correspondence with the REC to ensure that a fair and effective representation for Wales is secured. Rheinallt Thomas told members that at the recent Free Church Council meeting members were motivated and encouraged by Huw Lewis' speech and as a result a letter was sent to encourage all Free Church members to write to Welsh Government to request better support for SACREs and to emphasise the need for RE advisors, pointing out that the principles in the Minister's speech are in danger of being lost owing to consortia changes. Rheinallt confirmed that many letters have gone from the Free Church Council. Vicky Thomas added that teachers have been encouraged by his comments, but Welsh Government needs to be reminded of them. High quality religious education only happens with good training, appropriate CPD and support provided by Local Authorities. A copy of the Minister's speech will be kept on file to be used at appropriate times. Gavin Craigen concluded the discussion by confirming that the letter of response from the Minister had answered WASACRE's request to meet with the minister annually, as we did with Leighton Andrews. The letter stated that Huw Lewis would like to give consideration to reinstalling that meeting after the review. Members agreed that WASACRE need to keep an eye on this situation and make sure it happens.</p> |
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cyfarfod hwnnw ar ôl yr adolygiad. Roedd yr aelodau'n cytuno bod angen i CCYSAGauC gadw golwg ar y sefyllfa hon a gwneud yn siŵr bod hyn yn digwydd.

(b) Adolygiad Donaldson

Rhoddodd Libby Jones amlinelliad byr o'r adolygiad o'r cwricwlwm gan Lywodraeth Cymru sy'n mynd rhagddo ar hyn o bryd a lle CCYSAGauC ynddo, o'r cyfarfod yn Nolgellau ar 12 Mehefin lle cwblhawyd yr holiadur, i'r cyfarfod ar 20 Mehefin a oedd yn cynnwys cynrychiolwyr o Bwyllgor Gwaith CCYSAGauC (Tania ap Sion, Libby Jones, Mary Parry, Vicky Thomas, Yr Athro Leslie Francis) a'r Athro Donaldson. Sicrhawyd yr aelodau fod y cyfarfod yn un cadarnhaol a chafodd y prif bwyntiau a godwyd yn y cyfarfod gyda'r Athro Donaldson eu rhannu. 1. Cyd-destun hanesyddol addysg grefyddol a CCYSAGau mewn addysg yng Nghymru. 2. Y sefyllfa bresennol yng Nghymru. 3. Pwysigrwydd addysg grefyddol a'i chyfraniad at addysg ar gyfer ein pobl ifanc, y tair blaenoriaeth genedlaethol a chydlyniant cymunedol. 4. Pwysigrwydd hyfforddiant i athrawon, gan gynnwys Hyfforddiant Cychwynnol Athrawon mewn addysg grefyddol. Cododd yr Athro Donaldson y cwestiwn ynglŷn â sylwadau negyddol am AG gan rai disgyblion yr oedd ef wedi cwrdd â hwy fel rhan o'r adolygiad. Cytunodd cynrychiolwyr CCYSAGauC a oedd yn y cyfarfod i anfon rhestr ato o ysgolion lle gall ddod o hyd i arfer gorau mewn AG. Dywedodd Vicky Thomas, a oedd yn y cyfarfod, ei bod wedi cael ei gwneud yn glir iawn y byddai adolygiad o'r cwricwlwm yn dwyn goblygiadau i AG a'r Fframwaith Cenedlaethol ar gyfer AG. Roedd hi'n teimlo bod yr Athro Donaldson wedi cael y neges yn glir ac y byddai angen i unrhyw newidiadau i'r cwricwlwm gael eu hystyried ar gyfer AG. Diolchodd Bethan James i'r rhai a oedd yn y cyfarfodydd yn Nolgellau ac yng Nghaerdydd ac ailddatganodd bwysigrwydd dod o hyd i'r ysgolion hynny a all ddarparu enghreifftiau cyfoethog o arfer da mewn AG

(b) Donaldson Review

Libby Jones gave a brief outline of the on-going Welsh Government curriculum review and WASACREs place within it, from the meeting in Dolgellau on 12 June at which the questionnaire was completed, to the meeting on 20 June involving representatives from the WASACRE Executive, (Tania ap Sion, Libby Jones, Mary Parry, Vicky Thomas, Professor Leslie Francis) and Professor Donaldson. Members were assured that the meeting was positive and the main points raised at the meeting with Professor Donaldson were shared. 1. The historical context of religious education and SACREs within Welsh education. 2. The current situation in Wales. 3. The importance of religious education and its contribution to the education of our young people, the three national priorities and community cohesion. 4. The importance of training for teachers, including Initial Teacher Training in religious education. Professor Donaldson raised the issue of negative comments about RE coming from some pupils that he had met with as part of the review. WASACRE representatives at the meeting agreed to send him a list of schools where he can find best practice in RE. Vicky Thomas, who attended the meeting, said that it was made very clear that a review of the curriculum would have implications for RE and the National Framework for RE. She felt that Professor Donaldson had received that message loud and clear and that any changes to the curriculum would need to be considered for RE. Bethan James thanked those who attended both the meeting in Dolgellau and Cardiff and reiterated the importance of finding those schools that can provide rich examples of good practice in RE and urged members to look for such examples and ask their own SACREs to do the same.

ac erfyniodd ar yr aelodau i chwilio am enghreifftiau o'r fath a gofyn i'w CYSAGau hwy eu hunain wneud yr un modd.

(c) EFTRE

Cadarnhaodd Phil Lord fod adroddiad EFTRE wedi cael ei rannu gyda'r Pwyllgor Gwaith. Roedd y prif bwyntiau o'r adroddiad fel a ganlyn: Pwysigrwydd ymrwymiad aelodau EFTRE; cyllid posibl i rai o'r gwledydd pellach yn Nwyrain Ewrop lle ceir ymrwymiad i AG ac EFTRE ond diffyg arian; y cyfoeth o brofiad ar y bwrdd ac ymrwymiad i wneud y bwrdd yn fwy gweladwy. Erfyniodd Phil ar yr aelodau i fwrw golwg ar y wefan i gael mwy o wybodaeth ac eglurodd ei fod wedi cael cais i lunio rhywbeth i adlewyrchu'r sefyllfa yng Nghymru, a fydd ar gael ar y wefan yn y dyfodol. Bydd cylchlythyr yn cael ei greu hefyd a hwnnw'n cynnwys barn disgyblion ac athrawon yng Nghymru. Dywedodd Gavin Craigen ei bod yn bwysig iawn cael y gynrychiolaeth hon a diolchodd i Phil a CCYSAGauC am y gefnogaeth. Diweddodd Phil ei adroddiad trwy ddweud na chafodd Cymru ei chrybwyll am ei rhodd i EFTRE fel y cafodd gwledydd eraill yn y cyfarfod; fodd bynnag cadarnhaodd John Mitson yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith fod y tanysgrifiad o £90.00 ar gyfer 2013 wedi cael ei gyflwyno i EFTRE gan CCYSAGauC. Atgoffodd Rheinallt Thomas yr aelodau fod cronfa wedi'i sefydlu ar un adeg i gefnogi gwledydd Ewropeaidd – Ymddiriedolaeth Walter Stenhouse, a oedd wedi'i lleoli yn y Swistir, ac awgrymodd fod angen i ni ymchwilio i hyn

(d) Hyfforddiant CCYSAGauC

Cyfeiriodd Bethan yn ôl at y gynhadledd ym mis Hydref 2013 a hyfforddiant CA3 Gavin, yr oeddent ill dau yn ei thyb hi wedi sefydlu ffordd dda o lenwi'r bwlch o ran darparu hyfforddiant ar gyfer athrawon AG nad yw'n cael ei gynnig mwyach gan awdurdodau lleol a chonsortia. Mae papur wedi cael ei greu gan NAPfRE sy'n amlinellu syniadau posibl ar gyfer hyfforddiant.

(c) EFTRE

Phil Lord confirmed that the EFTRE report has been shared with the Executive committee. The main points from the report were as follows: The importance of the commitment of EFTRE members; the possible funding of some of the further Eastern European countries where there is commitment to RE and EFTRE but lack of money; the wealth of experience on the board and a commitment to make the board more visible. Phil urged members to look at the website for further information and explained that he has been asked to put something together to reflect the situation in Wales, which will be available on the website in the future. A newsletter will also be created including views of pupils and teachers in Wales. Gavin Craigen said that it is very important to have this representation and thanked Phil and WASACRE for the support. Phil concluded his report by saying that Wales was not mentioned in their gift to EFTRE as other countries were in the meeting, however it was confirmed in the Executive meeting by John Mitson that the £90.00 subscription for 2013 went to EFTRE from WASACRE. Rheinallt Thomas reminded members that there used to be a fund set up to support Eastern European countries which was based in Switzerland- The Walter Stenhouse Trust, and suggested that we need to look in to this.

(d) WASACRE training

Bethan referred back to the conference in October 2013 and Gavin's KS3 training, both of which she felt established a good way to fill the gap in providing training for RE teachers no longer offered by local authorities and consortia. A paper has been created by NAPfRE outlining possible training ideas.

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| <p>6. Cyflwyniad NAPfRE: CYSAGau a'r trefniadau Consortia</p> <p>Dangoswyd cyflwyniad PowerPoint i'r aelodau gan Mary, Gill, Bethan, Libby, Vicky a Phil. Fe ddisgrifion nhw ac fe egluron nhw'r trefniadau newydd ar gyfer pob consortiwm a sut y mae CYSAGau yn cael eu cefnogi bellach ym mhob awdurdod lleol o ganlyniad i'r newidiadau. Yn dilyn y cyflwyniad gofynnodd Rheinallt Thomas a yw CYSAGau yn monitro'r hyfforddiant mewn colegau yn eu hardal oherwydd dylent fod yn gwneud hynny. Mae angen i'r ddeialog honno fod yn digwydd a gall gael ei hwyluso trwy Rachel Bendall yng Ngholeg y Drindod/Abertawe. Cododd Vicky Thomas y cwestiwn ynglŷn â sut y gall CYSAGau barhau i gefnogi awdurdodau lleol mewn addysg grefyddol a'r heriau presennol y mae CYSAGau yn eu hwynebu gan gynnwys personél e.e. beth fydd yn digwydd pan fydd yr ymgynghorwyr presennol wedi mynd a'r cyfrifoldeb am y CYSAGau yn cael ei dynnu oddi wrth arweinwyr system fel Carys? Roedd y neges o hyn yn awgrymu bod angen i'r CYSAGau fod yn fwy rhagweithiol ac yn llai dibynnol ar gynrychiolydd yr ALI/y Consortiwm sy'n gwasanaethu eu CYSAG. Cododd cynrychiolydd y Bedyddwyr ar gyfer CYSAG Powys y pwynt nad yw grwpiau Ffydd yn gwybod am y CYSAGau ac nad yw'r CYSAGau yn gwybod amdanynt hwy. Mae angen mynd i'r afael â hyn.</p> <p>Cynhaliwyd gweithgaredd ar ôl y cyflwyniad hwn gyda'r aelodau'n gweithio mewn grwpiau i drafod y cwestiynau canlynol:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sut all aelodau gyfrannu at waith y CYSAGau? 2. Sut allwn ni sicrhau presenoldeb rheolaidd o'r 3 grŵp a chan aelodau etholedig? 3. Sut allech chi berswadio pobl i ddod yn aelod o'r CYSAG? 4. Sut allwn ni fonitro Addysg Grefyddol ac addoli ar y cyd? 5. Sut allwn ni roi cymorth i ysgolion | <p>6. NAPfRE presentation: SACREs and current Consortia arrangements</p> <p>Members were shown a PowerPoint which was presented by Mary, Gill, Bethan, Libby, Vicky and Phil. They described and explained the new arrangements for each consortia and how SACREs are supported now in each local authority as a result of the changes. Following the presentation Rheinallt Thomas asked whether SACREs monitor the training in colleges in their area because they should be doing so. That dialogue needs to be happening and can be facilitated through Rachel Bendall at Trinity college/Swansea. Vicky Thomas raised the issue of how SACREs can continue supporting local authorities in religious education and the current challenges SACREs face including personnel e.g. what happens when the current consultants are gone and the system leaders like Carys have the responsibility for SACRE taken away from them? The message from this suggested that SACREs need to be more proactive and less reliant on the LA/Consortia rep or consultant servicing their SACRE. An issue was raised by the Baptist representative for Powys SACRE that Faith groups don't know about SACREs and SACREs don't know about them. This needs to be addressed.</p> <p>An activity followed this presentation which involved members working in groups to discuss the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can members contribute to the work of SACREs? 2. How can we ensure regular attendance from the 3 groups and co-opted members? 3. How could you persuade people to become a SACRE member? 4. How can we monitor Religious Education and collective worship? 5. How can we support schools to deliver |
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| <p>gyflwyno darpariaeth dda o ran AG ac Addoli ar y Cyd?</p> <p>6. Sut allwn ni sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn cefnogi swyddogaeth CYSAGau ag arian/cyllid digonol?</p> <p>Roedd peth o'r adborth ar y cwestiynau hyn yn cynnwys: Dylai fod gan bob cynrychiolydd ar unrhyw CYSAG ddirprwy i fod yn bresennol yn ei le pan nad yw'n gallu bod yn bresennol ei hun; Mae angen i'r CYSAGau fod yn rhagweithiol o ran cysylltu â grwpiau a mudiadau ffydd trwy eu gwahodd i anfon cynrychiolydd o'u dewis hwy i gyfarfodydd y CYSAG. Gellir gwneud hyn trwy ysgrifennu llythyrau at ysgolion a grwpiau ffydd lleol, gan eu hannog i gefnogi. O ran cynrychiolwyr athrawon, unwaith y mae athro/athrawes wedi cael ei d(d)ewis ar gyfer CYSAG dylid gofyn i'r undeb athrawon a yw'n hapus i'r person hwnnw gynrychioli eu hundeb ar y CYSAG; Mae rhai CYSAGau gan gynnwys Powys yn cynnig y cyfle i aelodau arsylwi ar ddigwyddiadau addoli ar y cyd ac ymweld ag ysgolion yn rheolaidd i helpu'r broses fonitro.</p> <p>Anogodd Phil Lord yr aelodau i fynd â'r gweithgaredd hwn yn ôl i'w CYSAG a thrafod yr atebion i'r cwestiynau hyn gan eu hystyried yn ofalus.</p> <p>7. Adroddiad ar gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith a gynhaliwyd ar 14 Mai 2014</p> <p>Dyddiad cyfarfod nesaf y Pwyllgor Gwaith yw 26 Medi 2014 nid 25 Medi 2014. Cafodd yr adroddiad ei ddiwygio gan Libby Jones ac fe'i derbyniwyd fel cofnod cywir.</p> <p>8. Gohebiaeth</p> <p>Maent i gyd wedi cael sylw mewn eitemau blaenorol neu gan y Pwyllgor Gwaith.</p> <p>9. Enwebiadau ar gyfer y Pwyllgor Gwaith</p> | <p>good RE and CW</p> <p>6. How can we ensure that local authorities support the function of SACREs sufficient money/funding</p> <p>Some of the feedback from these questions included: Each representative on any SACRE should have in place a deputy who attends in their place when they are unable to attend themselves; SACREs need to be proactive in contacting faith groups and organisations by inviting them to send a representative of their choice to SACRE meetings. This can be done by writing letters to schools and local faith groups, actively encouraging their support. With regard to teacher representatives once a teacher has been selected for a SACRE the teaching union should be asked if they are happy for that person to represent their union on SACRE; Some SACREs including Powys offer members the opportunity to observe collective worship and visit schools on a regular basis to help the monitoring process.</p> <p>Phil Lord encouraged members to take this activity back to their SACRE and to discuss the answers to these questions with careful consideration.</p> <p>7. Report from the Executive Committee held on 14 May 2014</p> <p>The date for the next Executive meeting is 26 September 2014 not 25 September 2014. The report was amended by Libby Jones and was accepted as an accurate record.</p> <p>8. Correspondence</p> <p>All covered within previous items or with the executive committee.</p> <p>9. Nominations for Executive Committee</p> |
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Atgoffodd Gavin Craigen yr aelodau fod angen iddynt bleidleisio dros ddau aelod newydd i'r Pwyllgor Gwaith ac fe dechreuodd y broses bleidleisio.

10. U.F.A.

11. Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf : 26 Tachwedd 2014, Pont-y-pŵl.

12. Dyddiadau cyfarfodydd yn y dyfodol:

Cyfarfod y gwanwyn – Castell-nedd Port Talbot, 6 Mawrth 2015

Cyfarfod yr haf – Sir y Fflint, 25 Mehefin, 2015

Cyfarfod yr hydref – Blaenau Gwent, 25 Tachwedd

Gavin Craigen reminded members that they are required to vote for two new members to the Executive committee and voting commenced.

10. A.O.B.

11. Date for next meeting: 26 November 2014, Pontypool.

12. Future meeting dates:

Spring meeting- Neath Port Talbot, 6 March 2015

Summer meeting- Flintshire, 25 June, 2015

Autumn meeting- Blaenau Gwent, 25 November 2015



Cadeirydd/Chairman:
Dr Tania ap Sion

Ysgrifennydd/Secretary:
Libby Jones
4 Patten Close
Hawarden
Deeside
CH5 3TH
e-bost/e-mail: libby.jones@wrexham.gov.uk
ffôn/ tel : 01978 317614

27 Hydref, 2014

Annwyl Aelod

Amgaeaf ddogfennau perthnasol ar gyfer cyfarfod CCYSAGauC ar 26 Tachwedd 2014 yn Torfaen. Cychwynnir y cyfarfod am 10.30 gyda choffi ar gael o 10 ymlaen. Rydym yn anelu i orffen erbyn 3yp.

Cynhelir y cyfarfod yn cael ei gynnal yn Nghanolfan Byw Egnïol, Stryd Trosnant, Pont-y-pŵl NP4 8AT.

Amgeir cyfarwyddiadau.

Yn ddiffuant,

Libby Jones

Libby Jones
Ysgrifennydd CCYSAGauC

27 October, 2014

Dear Member

I enclose the relevant documents for the WASACRE meeting 26 November 2014 in Torfaen. The meeting begins at 10.30 am with coffee available from 10am, and will finish around 3pm.

The meeting will be held at the Pontypool Active Living Centre, Trosnant Street, Pontypool NP4 8AT.

Travel directions are enclosed.

Yours sincerely,

Libby Jones

Libby Jones
Secretary to WASACRE



**Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru, Torfaen
(Canolfan Byw Egnïol, Pont-y-pŵl), 26 Tachwedd 2014
(10.30am – 3pm)**

***Wales Association of SACREs meeting, Torfaen (Pontypool
Active Living Centre, Pontypool), 26 November 2014
(10.30am – 3pm)***

Agenda

1. Cyflwyniad a chroeso / *Introduction and welcome*
 2. Adfyfyrio tawel / *Quiet reflection*
 3. Ymddiheuriadau / *Apologies*
 4. Cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ym Mhowys, 2 Gorffennaf 2014 / *Minutes of meeting held in Powys, 2 July 2014*
 5. Materion yn codi / *Matters arising*
 6. Diweddariadau/Up-dates
 7. Cyflwyniadau / *Presentations:*
 - NAPfRE: Cyflwyniad gan CBAC – Beth mae'r data yn dysgu i ni / *A presentation by WJEC- What does the data tell us?*
 - CYSAG Sir Fynwy / *Monmouthshire SACRE: Celebrating RE Transition Project (year 6 pupils)*
 - NAPfRE: CYSAGau a'r trefniadau consortia (adborth) / *SACREs and consortia arrangements (feedback)*
 8. Adroddiad ar gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith a gynhaliwyd ar 26 Medi 2014 / *Report from the Executive Committee held on 26 September 2014*
 9. Gohebiaeth / *Correspondence*
 10. U.F.A. / *A.O.B.*
 11. Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf / *Date for next meeting: 6 Mawrth 2015 (Castell-Nedd) / 6 March 2015, Neath Port Talbot*
- Dyddiadau cyfarfodydd yn y dyfodol / *Future meeting dates: 25 Mehefin 2015 (Sir y Fflint, yn cynnwys AGM) / 25 June 2015 (Flintshire, includes AGM); 25 Tachwedd 2015 (Blaenau Gwent) / 25 November 2015 (Blaenau Gwent)*



Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAAGau Cymru, Powys (Siambr y Cyngor, Neuadd y Sir, Llandrindod Wells), 2 July 2014 (10.30am – 3pm)

Wales Association of SACREs meeting, Powys (Council Chamber, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells), 2 July 2014 (10.30am – 3pm)

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| Ynys Môn / Anglesey Bethan James Rheinallt Thomas Blaenau Gwent Gill Vaisey Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend Caerffili/ Caerphilly Cllr John Taylor Vicky Thomas Ruth Gray Cllr Michael Gray Caerdydd / Cardiff Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire Mary Parry Helen Gibbon Gwyneth Thomas Ceredigion Conwy Phil Lord | Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire Phil Lord Gavin Craigen Sir y Fflint / Flintshire Phil Lord Gwynedd Bethan James Miriam Amllyn Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil Cllr Ernie Galsworthy Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire Gill Vaisey Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot Casnewydd / Newport Vicky Thomas Huw Stephens Sally Northcott Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire Huw George Powys John Mitson Christine Robinson | Rhondda Cynon Taf Abertawe / Swansea Vicky Thomas Torfaen Vicky Thomas Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan Dafydd Treharne Wrecsam / Wrexham Libby Jones Sylwedyddion / Observers Tudor Thomas (WJEC) |
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Draft Minutes

1. Cyflwyniad a chroeso / *Introduction and welcome*

Cllr Roche Davies gave members a warm welcome to Powys and said how delighted he was that the meeting was being held within his term of office. He emphasised how RE is a unique subject as it is locally determined and that he was pleased to say it is a popular subject in Powys schools, including at GCSE level. Cllr Roche gave his best wishes to members for the main meeting and the AGM this afternoon.

Vice Chair, Gavin Craigen chaired the meeting and thanked Cllr Davies for his words and for hosting the event.

2. Adfyfrio tawel / *Quiet reflection*

Gavin Craigen asked members to reflect on their role in ensuring quality religious education that is effective, and how vital RE is today in a time when so much violent extremism takes place.

3. Ymddiheuriadau / *Apologies*

Tania ap Sion, Jen Malcolm, Edward Evans, Sue Cave, Carys Pritchard, Ernie Glasworthy, Meinir Loader, Cllr Michael Williams, Wyn Meredith, Dave Mackie, Nicholas Richter, Tim Rowlands. (Mark Durbin)

4. Cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd yng Nghaerffili, 27 Mawrth 2014 / *Minutes of meeting held in Caerphilly, 27 March 2014*

P4. Item 6. A discussion regarding the new RENews website arrangements took place and questions were raised as to how the website will be publicised. It was confirmed that there will be no password from September and therefore anyone can access the website from then on. A link from the WASACRE website to the RENews website was suggested and well received by members. P6. Item 9. Phil Lord confirmed that flyers for REQM are ready and have been sent to SACREs. Phil is putting together a letter to explain how the quality mark can be used and encouraged other SACREs to do the same. Vicky Thomas and Gill Vaisey have already done this in the SACREs they service and Vicky highlighted the usefulness of the REQM as a self-evaluation tool for teachers even if they do not go for the mark and the importance of the information reaching the right person in school. Gavin Craigen pointed out how helpful feedback from schools would be about how useful the REQM is and how they have used it. This could then be shared with all SACREs for circulation to their schools. P7. Item 10. Libby Jones corrected the spelling of OFQUAL in the minutes.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. This was proposed by Phil Lord and seconded by Michael Gray.

5. Diweddariadau/Up-dates:

(a) Cyngor AG yng Nghaerdydd / *RE Council AGM in Cardiff*

In his feedback Gavin Craigen described the welcome speech given by the Minister for Education and Skills, Huw Lewis as being positively received by members of the RE Council (A copy of the speech was included in the WASACRE papers). The speech sent a positive message about Religious Education in Wales and as this was the Minister's first

speech that included anything about RE it was very encouraging. The Minister ended his speech by inviting a response from the RE Council to the current curriculum review in Wales. The REC agreed to liaise with WASACRE before sending a response to Welsh Government. Following that meeting a request was sent by WASACRE to the Minister's office asking to be part of that review. The request was granted and representatives from the WASACRE Executive committee were invited to a meeting on Friday, 20 June 2014, with Professor Graham Donaldson who is leading the review. Other key messages from the REC AGM included the ongoing issue about representation on the board for Wales. Currently the representatives are Tania ap Sion and Gavin Craigen, the REC are looking in to the possibility of securing a more flexible representation in future. WASACRE is in correspondence with the REC to ensure that a fair and effective representation for Wales is secured. Rheinallt Thomas told members that at the recent Free Church Council meeting members were motivated and encouraged by Huw Lewis' speech and as a result a letter was sent to encourage all Free Church members to write to Welsh Government to request better support for SACREs and to emphasise the need for RE advisors, pointing out that the principles in the Minister's speech are in danger of being lost owing to consortia changes. Rheinallt confirmed that many letters have gone from the Free Church Council. Vicky Thomas added that teachers have been encouraged by his comments, but Welsh Government needs to be reminded of them. High quality religious education only happens with good training, appropriate CPD and support provided by Local Authorities. A copy of the Minister's speech will be kept on file to be used at appropriate times. Gavin Craigen concluded the discussion by confirming that the letter of response from the Minister had answered WASACRE's request to meet with the minister annually, as we did with Leighton Andrews. The letter stated that Huw Lewis would like to give consideration to reinstalling that meeting after the review. Members agreed that WASACRE need to keep an eye on this situation and make sure it happens.

(b) Adolygiad Donaldson / *Donaldson Review*

Libby Jones gave a brief outline of the on-going Welsh Government curriculum review and WASACREs place within it, from the meeting in Dolgellau on 12 June at which the questionnaire was completed, to the meeting on 20 June involving representatives from the WASACRE Executive, (Tania ap Sion, Libby Jones, Mary Parry, Vicky Thomas, Professor Leslie Francis) and Professor Donaldson. Members were assured that the meeting was positive and the main points raised at the meeting with Professor Donaldson were shared. 1. The historical context of religious education and SACREs within Welsh education. 2. The current situation in Wales. 3. The importance of religious education and its contribution to the education of our young people, the three national priorities and community cohesion. 4. The importance of training for teachers, including Initial Teacher Training in religious education. Professor Donaldson raised the issue of negative comments about RE coming from some pupils that he had met with as part of the review. WASACRE representatives at the meeting agreed to send him a list of schools where he can find best practice in RE. Vicky Thomas, who attended the meeting, said that it was made very clear that a review of the curriculum would have implications for RE and the National Framework for RE. She felt that Professor Donaldson had received that message loud and clear and that any changes to the curriculum would need to be considered for RE. Bethan James thanked those who attended both the meeting in Dolgellau and Cardiff and reiterated the importance of finding those schools that can provide rich examples of good practice in RE and urged members to look for such examples and ask their own SACREs to do the same.

(c) EFTRE / *EFTRE*

Phil Lord confirmed that the EFTRE report has been shared with the Executive committee. The main points from the report were as follows: The importance of the commitment of EFTRE members; the possible funding of some of the further Eastern European countries where there is commitment to RE and EFTRE but lack of money; the wealth of experience on the board and a commitment to make the board more visible. Phil urged members to look at the website for further information and explained that he has been asked to put something together to reflect the situation in Wales, which will be available on the website in the future. A newsletter will also be created including views of pupils and teachers in Wales. Gavin Craigen said that it is very important to have this representation and thanked Phil and WASACRE for the support. Phil concluded his report by saying that Wales was not mentioned in their gift to EFTRE as other countries were in the meeting, however it was confirmed in the Executive meeting by John Mitson that the £90.00 subscription for 2013 went to EFTRE from WASACRE. Rheinallt Thomas reminded members that there used to be a fund set up to support Eastern European countries which was based in Switzerland- The Walter Stenhouse Trust, and suggested that we need to look in to this.

(d) Hyfforddiant CCYSAGauC / *WASACRE training*

Bethan referred back to the conference in October 2013 and Gavin's KS3 training, both of which she felt established a good way to fill the gap in providing training for RE teachers no longer offered by local authorities and consortia. A paper has been created by NAPfRE outlining possible training ideas.

6. Cyflwyniad NAPfRE: CYSAGau a'r trefniadau Consortia

NAPfRE presentation: SACREs and current Consortia arrangements

Members were shown a PowerPoint which was presented by Mary, Gill, Bethan, Libby, Vicky and Phil. They described and explained the new arrangements for each consortia and how SACREs are supported now in each local authority as a result of the changes. Following the presentation Rheinallt Thomas asked whether SACREs monitor the training in colleges in their area because they should be doing so. That dialogue needs to be happening and can be facilitated through Rachel Bendall at Trinity college/Swansea. Vicky Thomas raised the issue of how SACREs can continue supporting local authorities in religious education and the current challenges SACREs face including personnel e.g. what happens when the current consultants are gone and the system leaders like Carys have the responsibility for SACRE taken away from them? The message from this suggested that SACREs need to be more proactive and less reliant on the LA/Consortia rep or consultant servicing their SACRE. An issue was raised by the Baptist representative for Powys SACRE that Faith groups don't know about SACREs and SACREs don't know about them. This needs to be addressed.

An activity followed this presentation which involved members working in groups to discuss the following questions:

1. How can members contribute to the work of SACREs?
2. How can we ensure regular attendance from the 3 groups and co-opted members?
3. How could you persuade people to become a SACRE member?
4. How can we monitor Religious Education and collective worship?
5. How can we support schools to deliver good RE and CW

6. How can we ensure that local authorities support the function of SACREs sufficient money/funding

Some of the feedback from these questions included: Each representative on any SACRE should have in place a deputy who attends in their place when they are unable to attend themselves; SACREs need to be proactive in contacting faith groups and organisations by inviting them to send a representative of their choice to SACRE meetings. This can be done by writing letters to schools and local faith groups, actively encouraging their support. With regard to teacher representatives once a teacher has been selected for a SACRE the teaching union should be asked if they are happy for that person to represent their union on SACRE; Some SACREs including Powys offer members the opportunity to observe collective worship and visit schools on a regular basis to help the monitoring process.

Phil Lord encouraged members to take this activity back to their SACRE and to discuss the answers to these questions with careful consideration.

7. Adroddiad ar gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith a gynhaliwyd ar 14 Mai 2014 /*Report from the Executive Committee held on 14 May 2014*

The date for the next Executive meeting is 26 September 2014 not 25 September 2014. The report was amended by Libby Jones and was accepted as an accurate record.

8. Gohebiaeth /*Correspondence*

All covered within previous items or with the executive committee.

9. Enwebiadau ar gyfer y Pwyllgor Gwaith / *Nominations for Executive Committee*

Gavin Craigen reminded members that they are required to vote for two new members to the Executive committee and voting commenced.

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

**11. Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf / *Date for next meeting: 26 November 2014, Pontypool.*
*Dyddiadau cyfarfodydd yn y dyfodol / Future meeting dates:***

Spring meeting- Neath Port Talbot, 6 March 2015

Summer meeting- Flintshire 25 June, 2015

Autumn meeting- Blaenau Gwent, 25 November 2015



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

**Dydd Gwener, 26 Medi 2014, Caerdydd/
Friday, 26 September 2014, Cardiff**

Minutes

ATTENDANCE LIST

Tania ap Siôn, Gavin Craigen, John Mitson, Edward Evans, Rheinallt Thomas, Bethan James, Gill Vaisey, Vicky Thomas, Libby Jones

1. Croeso / Welcome

TaS welcomed all members to the meeting at City United Reformed Church.

2. Ymddiheuriadau / Apologies

Mary Parry, Tim Rowlands.

Members requested a current list of the Executive members to circulate to all SACREs with the minutes of the July meeting. LJ actioned this.

3. Cofnodion cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith diwethaf (14/05/2014) / Minutes of the last Executive meeting (14/05/2014)

Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Vicky Thomas and seconded by Phil Lord.

4. Materion yn codi / Matters arising

Item 6. RE Council for England and Wales AGM. EE was concerned about not being able to hear the Minister, Huw Lewis' speech at the REC meeting. Rheinallt Thomas shared with members that in the Free Church meeting members were impressed with the speech and published it in the weekly newsletter.

5. Cofnodion cyfarfod CCYSAGauC, 2 Gorffennaf 2014 / Minutes of the WASACRE meeting, 2 July 2014

TaS thanked GC for chairing the meeting. The minutes were accepted by members as ready for circulation and LJ will circulate them to SACREs in English before arranging for them to be translated.

VT raised the question of how we choose example schools to highlight to Professor Donaldson. PL suggested using the REQM schools on the understanding that they have already achieved the Quality Mark in religious education and should therefore be able to offer examples of good practice. Members agreed that this was a good idea and PL agreed to chase this up.

BJ has made enquiries on developing a questionnaire that could be used by individual SACREs and/or WASACRE, which asks pupils about RE, so that departments/ schools/ LAs/ SACREs can compare their situation with other areas and nationally to help with self-evaluation. BJ explained that the model is similar to the Estyn questionnaire. VT suggested putting it on the NAPfRE agenda. TaS suggested it for a future presentation at a WASACRE meeting. The idea of an on-line questionnaire was discussed with reports being fed back or available to participating schools.

Members agreed that it would be useful to monitor and highlight patterns, that it could help with reviews in the future such as the Donaldson review, and that funding would be required.

6. Taflen What Islam Really Says / What Islam Really Says leaflet

Carys Prichard has shared the leaflet with NAPfRE and WASACRE (the leaflet was originally presented to Cardiff SACRE). The leaflet was discussed by members and it was considered that further information was required. It was agreed that LJ will check with Carys Pritchard regarding its origins and ask Cardiff SACRE whether they would be willing for WASACRE to share it with other SACREs. If Cardiff SACRE agree, then LJ will send the leaflet out to SACREs for their information, within the context of this being an initiative by the Cardiff Muslim community speaking as one voice about their common understanding of what Islam really says. It would depend on each individual SACRE as to whether or how they would use it.

7. Materion Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government matters

- Donaldson review - Professor Donaldson is currently writing up his report to present to Welsh Government and all other parties including WASACRE at the 'end of the year'. We need to be aware of this being published. We also need to send the REQM information about example schools/RE departments to him as soon as possible. BJ has highlighted that Welsh Government are drip feeding information through twitter re: education review. Members agreed to keep a watching brief.
- TaS updated members about WASACRE's Welsh Government contacts and correspondence. VT raised the point that as an Executive we should be following up on the Minister's promise to respond to us regarding our annual meeting with him and WASACRE should request a spring meeting in March/April/May. LJ will write to the Minister regarding this matter.

8. Adroddiadau arolygu Estyn / Estyn inspection reports

VT raised that there are few instances of RE and Collective Worship in Estyn reports. Two reports from Caerphilly had nothing at all and one from each of the other authorities in VT's area. Vicky suggested that the Executive should write to Estyn to draw their attention to the absence of comments regarding RE and Collective Worship on quality and meeting statutory requirements. VT read out her own letter to members. Members agreed that WASACRE could write to Estyn to highlight that SACREs have noticed that some reports lack any comments on SMSC and in particular the contribution Collective Worship makes to it. Members were requested to share with WASACRE their experiences of this from their own LA for information, and LJ will write the letter to WG.

9. Gohebiaeth / Correspondence

RE News. The letter received from Vaughan Salisbury from RE News was shared. LJ will add the RE News web address to these minutes. <http://www.religious-education-wales.org/> Members were asked if WASACRE should contribute financially to RE News, as suggested in VS's letter, but it was agreed not to do so.

John Mitson confirmed that the RE Council invoice was paid to the amount of £250.00. Members agreed for Libby Jones to be a 3rd named representative for WASACRE to receive correspondence with regard to REC meetings. LJ will email Sophie Agrotis from REC to accept and to seek clarification about WASACRE representation on the REC Board.

Right of withdrawal. GV raised the question of whether WASACRE should produce a guidance document on this. It was suggested that we ask SACREs if they have any guidance they already in use and to ask NASACRE also. Members agreed that we should produce some guidance and PL confirmed that we already did this for the post-16 Collective Worship guidance. Gill offered to collate all documents and work on one guidance document for WASACRE.

Exam data. LJ will request GCSE RE exam data for all LAs.

LJ confirmed that VT and PL are the WJEC representatives for the RE developments group (they will be representing WASACRE).

10. Agenda ar gyfer cyfarfod y Gymdeithas (Torfaen), 26 Tachwedd 2014 / Agenda for the Association meeting (Torfaen), 26 November 2014

NAPfRE presentations-

- WJEC presentation by Andrew Pearce. This will be on Data for Wales and what it tells us. LJ to write to Andrew to confirm.
- Feedback on last NAPfRE presentation and discussion.
- Monmouthshire SACRE presentation of their Yr 6 transition project. 20 minutes on each.

11. U.F.A. / A.O.B

GV asked about School Self Evaluation. Who is doing what in each LA? It would be useful to have an overview of what is going on in terms of whether they ask, how and their success. Feedback was requested for next meeting.

GC confirmed that in RE Today the new membership scheme for NATRE is now out. They are keen to include Wales more. GC handed out the NATRE leaflet. GC will write something about RE in Wales to go in the handbook and circulate to the Executive before sending it to NATRE.

JM raised the issue of a new Treasurer being needed soon due to his upcoming retirement. Discussion took place about the possibilities of John continuing in this role until the AGM and possibly beyond.

**12. Dyddiad cyfarfod nesaf y Pwyllgor Gwaith / Date of the next Executive meeting: 2 Chwefror 2015 / 2 February 2015.
City URC**