

<b>15 October 2014</b>	<b>ITEM: 6</b>
<b>Thurrock Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education</b>	
<b>Report on the Inquiry into the Supply of and Support of Teachers of RE in England</b>	
<b>All Party Parliamentary Group on RE</b>	
<b>Report of:</b> Deborah Weston: Associate RE Adviser	
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Non-Key
<b>Accountable Head of Service:</b> Vivien Cutler –Strategic Lead, School Improvement, Learning & Skills	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Carmel Littleton, Director of Children’s Services	
<b>This report is Public</b>	

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The report, “RE, the truth unmasked” is the result of an inquiry carried out by the All Party Parliamentary Group on RE to investigate the supply of and support for teachers of religious education. The report draws on over 400 sources of evidence and concludes that there are some serious issues which need to be addressed if schools are to provide high quality religious education for every young person. A number of findings in the inquiry have direct implications for Thurrock which should be discussed by SACRE

### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**1.1 That SACRE consider what investigations in might be made to determine whether or not the findings of the report apply to Thurrock**

### **2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

**2.1** An All Party Parliamentary Group is a group which exists to support a particular cause and has membership from across the political spectrum.

**2.2** The focus of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Religious Education is on safeguarding the provision of RE in our schools and exploring how the subject can continue to deliver a valuable dimension to the education of all children and young people.

2.3 The aims of the APPG are to:

- promote the highest possible standards of religious education in schools, colleges, universities and academies,
- press for continuous improvement in religious education,
- promote a clear, positive image, and public understanding of religious education and
- advocate that every young person experiences a personally inspiring and academically rigorous education in religious and non-religious worldviews.

### **3. ISSUES, OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS:**

3.1 Members are invited to discuss the findings of the inquiry and to respond.

### **4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

4.1 The APPG inquiry has identified some serious short comings in the supply and support for teachers of RE and it is important to consider whether or not these apply to Thurrock and if so to try to address them.

### **5. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

5.1 Not applicable

### **6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

6.1 SACRE ensures that:

- the Local Authority reviews its Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education on a regular basis;
- publishes an Annual Report of its work;
- offers guidance on resources and methods of teaching and in consultation with Thurrock Schools;
- monitors the quality of provision for RE and Collective Acts of Worship in Thurrock.

By considering this report, SACRE members will be better informed and therefore more able to support the statutory remit.

### **7. IMPLICATIONS**

#### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**  
Telephone and email: **01375 652466**  
**kgoodacre@thurrock.gov.uk**

There are no financial implications to this report.

## 7.2 **Legal**

Implications verified by: **Lucinda Bell**  
Telephone and email: **07971316599**  
**Lucinda.bell@BDTLegal.org.uk**

The Council is under a duty by virtue of s149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to

- The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010.
- The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. This involves having due regard to the needs to:
  - remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
  - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it and
  - encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- The need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This includes having due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and to promote understanding.

This report concerns matters that relate to the protected characteristics of religion and belief and race.

## 7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**  
Telephone and email: **sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk**  
**01375 652472**

There are no diversity implications noted in this report.

## 7.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

Not applicable

**BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):**

The Religious Education Council website:  
<http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/appg>

**APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:**

- Appendix 1: Summary of the APPG report

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