

National Association of SACREs

AGM 2022: Secretary's Report

Our NASACRE 2021-22 Executive:

Officers: Linda Rudge (Acting Chair/Chair), Michael Metcalf (Treasurer), Sue Holmes (Secretary) and Paul Smalley (Executive Assistant)

Members: Anne Andrews, Denise Chaplin, Claire Clinton, Roy Galley, Sheila Gewolb, Elizabeth Jenkerson, Alex Klein, Sukaina Manji

Co-opted: Lesley Prior ; Admin Officer: Marie Cooper ; Webmaster: Matthew Tulley

Over the last year, your NASACRE Executive Committee has continued to meet remotely on Zoom. We held our **Authority in RE** conference programme - originally planned for London in 2020 - online in May 2021. In the Executive elections, we welcomed Anne Andrews, nominated by Windsor and Maidenhead SACRE. The role of Vice Chair continues to remain open for a third year, so Linda has kindly agreed to continue as Chair for the next two years... this is an unfortunate situation that we haven't met before, and it remains to be seen how we continue to function without the automatic succession of a sitting Vice Chair. We're reliant on member SACREs to nominate new Exec members with appropriate skills, and it looks like we'll have several vacancies in the coming year. So, we're open to suggestions, such as a job-sharing role. Please be in touch to offer your SACRE's ideas.

Our great disappointment in 2022 is that we have been unable to hold our Conference and AGM in person in Birmingham as we'd hoped and promised to do. It became increasingly clear before Easter that SACRE members were not confident in booking to meet together in person in May, and we had no choice but to cancel our plans in order to attract a sufficient audience. But the big success of the past year has been the innovation of webinars, attracting both large numbers of SACRE members and providing a forum for us to meet together. More of those next year!

Exec members haven't met together physically since February 2020. We have struggled to get through the same amount of business in a morning online as in a full day together in person. Whilst meetings have been virtual, they've been more frequent - in June, September, November 2021, February and twice in March 2022. Kathryn Wright, CEO, Culham St Gabriel's has joined us

to update on common issues and we've published regular *SACRE Briefings* to support members. In a fast-changing educational climate, we've continued to notice an upturn in the number of questions received from SACREs over this time, and your Exec officers have sought regular meetings with the DfE to clarify current issues and concerns, not least the likely repercussions from the current White Paper and academisation programme.

Your Executive has continued to work on priorities identified in our NASACRE Development Plan. There has been a lot of talking recently around **what we are** – a not-for-profit organisation, a community organisation, or...? Seeking clarification and properly registering our association is the next step, as we move forward with a new website which has been in development over the past year or so. Matt will be giving us a tour at the AGM. We are likely to make some minor changes to the Constitution at the 2023 AGM, to reflect our current way of working which has changed - almost imperceptibly - over the years. Check out our refocused **Aims** on the revised website.

We are excited this year to hear the results of the first analysis of SACRE annual reports, which is made possible by the new format that we designed and have trained with over the last year or so. Look out for a second NASACRE FOI request to all LAs coming soon – as promised 2 years ago - to see whether there has been any improvement in the level of core SACRE funding.

As we come to the end of yet another challenging year, Roy Galley retires from the Exec Committee after a 5-year stint; we must thank Roy for everything he has contributed to NASACRE, including to our Development Plan. Marie Cooper has continued to beaver away expertly in the background, keeping admin going whilst juggling new mum duties! We now have to say goodbye to the only Treasurer NASACRE has known since day one, as Michael Metcalf steps down after 29 years. The extent of Michael's influence on NASACRE is immense and we owe him an enormous debt of gratitude for his service and commitment, his wise counsel and the benefit of his experience, offered selflessly to NASACRE over such a long time.

Sue Holmes