

## **BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET**

### **CHILDREN, ADULTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

Monday, 13th May, 2024

**Present:-** Councillors Dine Romero (Chair), Liz Hardman (Vice-Chair), Alex Beaumont, Dave Harding, Ruth Malloy, Joanna Wright and Robin Moss (in place of Lesley Mansell)

**Co-opted Member (non-voting):** Kevin Burnett

**Also in attendance:** Mary Kearney-Knowles (Director of Children and Education), Christopher Wilford (Director of Education), Ceri Williams (Policy Development & Scrutiny Officer), Laura Ambler (Place Director for the B&NES locality in the Integrated Care Board), Laura Donnelly (Head of SEND) and Olwyn Donnelly (Head of Education Commissioning)

**Cabinet Member for Children's Services:** Councillor Paul May

#### **119 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and those present introduced themselves.

#### **120 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

#### **121 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Councillors Lesley Mansell and Paul Crossley had sent their apologies to the Panel. Councillors Robin Moss and Andy Wait were present as their respective substitutes for the duration of the meeting.

Chris Batten, Co-opted Member had also sent his apologies to the Panel.

#### **122 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **123 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

There was none.

#### **124 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING**

Councillor Eleanor Jackson had registered to make a statement to the Panel regarding the SACRE Annual Report (Agenda Item 12).

## **125 MINUTES: 15TH APRIL 2024**

Kevin Burnett made the following observations on the minutes.

- The Panel are still waiting to receive a Community Summit summary from the Education team. The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that he did not attend the summit, but would ask an officer who did to provide some feedback.
- The Panel had asked how many schools involved in the Supervised Toothbrush Scheme were also receiving support from the St. John's Foundation.
- Lucy Baker, BSW ICB had said she would provide a response to the Panel regarding overall GP capacity concerning student numbers. Laura Ambler, BSW ICB said that she would follow that up on behalf of the Panel.

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chair.

## **126 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE**

Councillor Paul May, Cabinet Member for Children's Services addressed the Panel and highlighted the points below from his update report. A copy of the report will be attached as an online appendix to these minutes.

### School Streets

Councillor May informed the Panel that he had met and discussed this matter with Councillor Wright and Councillor Heijltjes and that potentially such a scheme could be an advantage to some schools.

He explained that the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Panel have responsibility for this work area and that the CAHW Panel would be updated as progress is made.

### Skills

Councillor May said that he had met with the new acting Principal of Bath College to stress how important it is for them to maintain the support they have in place for SEND pupils.

He added that discussions had also started with the College around the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone (SVEZ) scheme to see if training, apprenticeships and work experience opportunities can be provided during and after the construction phase of the Zone.

### SACRE Annual Report

Councillor May said that he felt that there was a slightly inconsistent approach to the teaching of Religious Education across the B&NES schools and added that it is

important that multi faith teachings help children to understand each other from an early age as possible.

#### Care experienced protected status

Councillor May informed the Panel that the Council are talking to Bath University about a memorandum of understanding which may include one or two scholarships, adopting the principle for all students, developing a mentoring scheme, possible accommodation support and apprenticeship schemes.

He added that they have also been discussing the possibility of moving people from Band B to Band A on the housing waiting list for care experienced young people.

Councillor Andy Wait asked how a school would be identified as wanting to take part in the School Streets scheme.

Councillor May replied that there was currently enough budget for one school to be initially considered to take part in the scheme and that practically the number of available schools was limited. He stated that the process, in the main, must be driven by the school and that the Council would discuss options with those that volunteer to take part.

The Chair asked if the schools should consult with their local Ward Councillors.

Councillor May replied that they should and added that he has asked for an item to be placed on the next School's Standard Board agenda for when they are next due to meet on 16th July 2024.

Councillor Andy Wait reiterated that the process must be led by the school and that steps should be taken to identify those that are interested in taking part.

Councillor May stated that there was a budget in place and an officer available for a scheme to progress. He said that feedback on the scheme would be provided to both this Panel and the Climate Emergency Panel.

Councillor Joanna Wright stated that the Green Party has twice had a budget amendment declined on this subject area and said that she challenged whose role it actually is to progress this, given the extreme pressure that most schools find themselves under. She added that she was aware of a number of parents with pupils at St Stephen's School were trying to introduce something similar on a weekly basis.

Councillor May commented that this was not a simple process and that there likely to be knock on implications of putting a scheme in place. He added that he has discussed this issue with the Executive Directors within the Council.

The Chair stated that overall the matter should remain within the remit of the Climate Emergency Panel and that should a working group be proposed then members of the CAHW Panel should be invited to take part.

Councillor Dave Harding asked what the key features were for establishing a School Street.

Councillor May replied that a school and its surrounding streets need to be identified and then at some stage in the process a Traffic Regulation Order would be put in place to stop vehicles entering those streets near the school at particular times of the day.

Kevin Burnett stated that he did not feel that it should be the responsibility of the schools to initiate this process and that there should be an overall Council plan for these schemes.

Councillor Harding asked how many pupils had taken part in years 1 & 2 of the Language for Life project provided by the St John's Foundation.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that he did not have that information to hand, but could supply it to the Panel in due course.

Councillor Harding asked if any of the pupils identified in either the red or amber groups of the project were moved on sooner to receive speech and language therapy and whether any pupils had also gone onto receive any other downstream services.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that he would make an enquiry on behalf of the Panel and issue an answer to them.

Councillor Wait asked if any further information could be given on a new private children's home that was due to open in Keynsham and could accommodate a maximum of 4 children.

The Director of Children's Services & Education replied that any provider that moves into the local area must notify the Council of their intentions and ensure that they are Ofsted compliant.

Councillor May commented that children's homes run by the Local Authority had ceased, resulting in young people having to be sent out of area. He added that a feasibility study was due to take place over the summer as to whether Charlton House can become a residential special school and that this might also involve a number of other sites with differing structures in place.

Councillor Liz Hardman said that she was pleased to see the progress that was being achieved through the work of the St John's Foundation. She asked which schools had been involved in the initial programme.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that schools within Twerton & Whiteway took part in the initial programme.

Councillor Hardman commented that she was looking forward to the forthcoming double roll-out across Radstock, Midsomer Norton & Paulton and asked what the criteria for selection was.



The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that for the first programme the criteria was connected to pupils in receipt of Free School Meals / Pupil Premium and that this time all Nurseries and Primary Schools would be approached to take part.

Councillor May informed the Panel that St. John's had attended a recent meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Board and said that the minutes of that meeting should be circulated to the Panel.

The Chair said that she was likely to raise the issue of Culverhay under the Safety Valve report, later in the agenda.

Councillor May replied that Bath College had decided not explore a future use of Culverhay as that would involve adding a new build facility to the site. He added that this was why there were looking at options for the SVEZ as a solution for our young people needs to be found.

He informed the Panel that a decision relating to the redeployment of Culverhay for educational uses, supporting our most vulnerable children by providing SEND and Alternative Provision needs in B&NES through the redevelopment of the former Bath Academy school site was due to be taken by Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

The Chair asked if this would include a decision relating to the on-site swimming pool as this was also an important local facility.

Councillor May replied that this was not for discussion with this Panel, but said that he had met with the Ward Members and would report back when a decision was made.

Councillor Robin Moss said that he found the prospect of using the SVEZ as part of a skills learning site an interesting one, given that a Development Order was in place following a recent round of decisions.

Councillor May replied that he understood the local sensitivities regarding the site and had discussed the matter with Councillor Paul Roper, Cabinet Member for Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development. He added that the needs of local young people should at least be discussed.

The Chair, on behalf of the Panel, thanked Councillor May for his update.

### **Lead Member Report 13.05.24**

#### **127 B&NES, SWINDON & WILTSHIRE INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (BSW ICB) UPDATE**

Laura Ambler, BSW ICB addressed the Panel and highlighted the following sections from the update report that had been provided. A copy of the report will be attached as an online appendix to these minutes.

#### Health Inequalities funding update

BSW Integrated Care Board is working to tackle health inequalities across B&NES, Swindon in Wiltshire. In B&NES, a health inequalities core network team was established in May 2023.

The team works closely with partners in a number of areas including overseeing a cross-partnership B&NES Health Inequalities Network, awareness raising, supporting health inequalities work at the RUH and in primary care, holding outreach events and coordinating and allocating health inequality-related funding streams and leading applications for any further grants relating to health inequalities.

Grants have been awarded to 12 projects in B&NES for 2024/25 including inclusive afterschool clubs for children with SEND, perinatal mental health support, targeted family support for vulnerable families in Twerton and developing a new service for people experiencing homelessness to access palliative and end of life care.

#### Royal United Hospitals awarded £21.6m grant for energy efficiency projects

A £21.6million decarbonisation grant will bring the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust one step closer to achieving its net zero goals.

The grant has been awarded by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero as part of the Salix Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and will fund improvements including more environmentally friendly lighting, insulation, and heating and cooling controls.

When the proposed improvements are completed, by 2026, they will result in an estimated 24 per cent annual reduction in carbon emissions over which the RUH has direct control.

#### Dental Van update

On 7th February, the Department of Health and Social Care published its Dental Recovery Plan with the ambition to make dental services faster, simpler, and fairer for our population. One priority is to bring dental care directly to under-served, more isolated communities via the deployment of mobile dental vans. On the same day as the dental recovery plan was published, the Secretary of State named the 12 ICBs where dental access remains most challenging, which included BSW ICB.

Options are now being appraised for the acquisition of vehicles, and a national market engagement exercise as part of a procurement exercise has taken place. We are still waiting for the service specification. We are keen in BSW to ensure these plans support and supplement the ongoing local work with the Public Health teams to support access and our focus on inequalities and oral health plans.

We are working across the South West and as an ICB we are scoping the unmet need and vulnerable populations and key demographic areas for a targeted approach, including specific areas for the van to deliver services with a view the service will commence September / October 2024.

Councillor Joanna Wright asked how our local areas will become included in the visits of the Dental Van.

Laura Ambler replied that they are currently mapping where the local vulnerable communities and populations are and then assessing where they will be the most receptive. She added that, without promising, it was understood that B&NES has particular pockets of deprivation that would benefit from this work.

Councillor Wright asked if there would be enough dentists and dental staff available for the service to progress.

Laura Ambler replied that they are looking at the models of staffing that can be introduced alongside the levels of treatment that can be offered as part of the project.

Councillor Wright asked if the ICB were able to feedback in anyway to Government the issues relating to NHS dentists not being paid enough.

Laura Ambler replied that she was aware that this was being addressed at a national level, but was not able to supply any direct information at this time and offered to bring further information to the Panel through their future update reports.

Kevin Burnett said that he welcomed the Health Inequalities funding and asked if any of it could be assigned to proactive projects.

Laura Ambler replied that they are attempting to do that more in this second round of funding and that Mental Health was identified as a key focus on this occasion.

Kevin Burnett asked how much influence the ICB will have on the decisions relating to the Dental Vans.

Laura Ambler replied that there will be a national policy directive, to which a regional plan will be formed and that we will need to respond to.

Councillor Dave Harding said that he was sure that Councillors within the rural areas of B&NES would help in providing further data if needed.

Laura Ambler thanked him for that offer.

Councillor Ruth Malloy commented that it was interesting to hear about the new service for people experiencing homelessness to access palliative and end of life care and would appreciate further information on that in future reports when appropriate.

She also asked if further information could be given to the Panel on the proposal for pop-up Dental Services.

Laura Ambler replied that they could seek to bring further information on these matters in their future update reports.

Kevin Burnett raised the following subject areas and asked if any additional information could be given to the Panel on them.

- BSW ICB SEND representative
- Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)
- Pharmacy capacity levels
- Police – Attending incidents with Mental Health
- RUH Services
- Birth Trauma

Laura Ambler said that written updates could be provided on most of these matters and gave the following initial response.

BSW ICB SEND representative - Gill May is the Chief Nurse for BSW ICB and its SEND representative. Amongst other work she sits on the Local Area Inclusion Board. They would like to discuss further with Kevin what level of information he is seeking.

Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) – An excellent project and one that they can provide further information to the Panel.

Police – Attending incidents with Mental Health – Very constructive work has been undertaken with the Police on their approach to attending incidents that involve people suffering from Mental Health issues.

The Chair, on behalf of the Panel, thanked Laura Ambler for her update.

### **BSW ICB Report for Children Adults Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel - May 2024**

#### **128 SEND HOME TO SCHOOL TRAVEL POLICY REVIEW**

Councillor Paul May introduced the report to the Panel and sought to compliment the Head of SEND for the work that has taken place regarding the review of the policy. He stated that the policy was currently in a consultation phase and that they would welcome any comments from the Panel.

He added that they have met with the local Parent & Carers Forum who have been complimentary on the work of the review.

The Head of SEND addressed the Panel and explained that the current SEND Home to School Travel Policy had not been updated for several years and since then a number of DfE guidance updates have been issued, causing the current policy to become out of date.

She stated that the SEND Home to School Travel Policy has been reviewed and rewritten in line with new Department for Education guidance and has also been updated to clarify the eligibility criteria and to outline all travel support options for SEND children and young people more clearly.

She informed the Panel that the consultation process has been followed robustly, including writing to 477 parent/carers, contacting 69 schools, transport providers, B&NES parent carer forum and consulting our B&NES colleagues.

She said that feedback was given online, via the telephone and at 6 in person events. She said that through the consultation process some concerns had been raised regarding whether any changes would make it more difficult for young people to attend their current schools and said that this was not the case and that as part of the Annual Review process they discuss travel options with families and would continue to do so.

She added that some families have also raised the issue of whether they could change schools once the proposed new facilities are in place as they might be closer to their home.

Councillor Robin Moss thanked the officer for a comprehensive report, but said that he felt that the issue was bigger than just this review. He added that the policy was likely to have financial consequences on a budget that is already overspent and that any changes need to be fully understood as to how they will affect our young people and their families.

He stated the need to make the most of the money that is being spent.

Councillor May replied that the changes are driven by the conditions that have been set down by the Government and that the procurement of the associated transport services is a separate matter. He added that this review was about establishing whether this policy is correct and fair for our young people and their families.

The Head of SEND added that there is an option for families to have an individual budget to claim fuel expenses so that their young person can be driven to school by somebody that they know.

Councillor Liz Hardman said that she considered there to be three significant changes to the current policy.

1. A child / young person would attend their nearest appropriate school if it is able to accommodate their needs.
2. The policy has become much clearer for parents, carers and those officers who work within the process.
3. Car Seats – need to be provided by the families for those children / young people who need them.

She said that she also recognised the need to address the overspend within this work area at some point.

The Head of SEND replied that 11 specific points in the guidance need to be included in the policy and that previously there was only 4 that had been in place. She added that this was mainly references to other pieces of legislation.

She added that the guidance concerning the distance between the nearest school and the nearest appropriate school was not that specific previously.

She informed the Panel that the matter of available car seats was not concerning for a large number of local children or young people, but it was the case that some Taxis do not always have one available for a journey.

Kevin Burnett asked when the policy would be implemented.

The Head of SEND replied that a Single Member Decision confirming the policy was due to be taken on 10<sup>th</sup> June and then steps would be taken to implement this for new applications. She added that at each EHCP Annual Review the issue of travel to school would be discussed and stressed that there are no plans to move children from their current schools.

She added that as previously mentioned some families have enquired about attending the proposed new schools when they are ready to open as they could be significantly closer to home than the school currently being attended by their child / young person.

Kevin Burnett queried why, on page 36 of the agenda, there was reference to a key milestone as being the end of Year 3.

The Head of SEND thanked him for this observation and said that it should be the end of Year 2.

Kevin Burnett asked what the key costs were affecting SEND travel to school.

The Head of SEND replied that she felt that this was a question that the B&NES Transport Team should respond to.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding commented that significant consultation has been undertaken with connected parents and carers and that the new policy was bringing clarity rather than changes.

He acknowledged that separate discussions need to be had regarding the overall budget and stated that one of the biggest drivers to consider was being able to have enough operators in place.

Councillor May said that young people across all areas of the Council will have different needs and that our Transport Team are looking at ways to take this matter forward. He said that first and foremost a policy needs to be in place.

Councillor Dave Harding asked how many young people will no longer be able to receive transport to school.

The Head of SEND replied that transport to school would not be taken away from any child or young person with SEND. She added that the eligibility hasn't changed, but the type of transport may differ in the future.

Councillor Joanna Wright asked whether the issue of the Climate Emergency had been addressed as part of this review and if the use of electric vehicles or cargo bikes should be promoted.

The Head of SEND replied that this was an interesting point and that some families might be willing to look at these options.

Councillor Wright asked if School Streets had any part in this process to be able to deliver healthy routes to school.

The Head of SEND replied that she did not think that it would as it is a specialist provision that is put in place and that it would normally take the child or young person directly into the grounds of the school.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding commented that travel training, to enable a young person to travel to school or college independently, would be offered when deemed appropriate.

Councillor May informed the Panel that he had a meeting scheduled with the Commissioning team and would raise with them the issue of electric vehicles.

Kevin Burnett noted that within the report around a third of the 32 respondents were not satisfied with their Home to School transport provision and asked if their concerns had been addressed as part the review.

The Head of SEND replied that many parents prefer their child to travel in a taxi with a guide and that this was not the best use of Council budgets. She added that from speaking with the Parent & Carer Forum there are some frustrations when the service is late when a vehicle is having to make multiple pick-ups.

Kevin Burnett asked how it is checked that parents select the nearest appropriate school and was that done in conjunction with the Transport team.

The Head of SEND replied that applications for these children & young people are not part of the normal school admissions process when they have an EHCP in place and that they are discussed as part of their Annual Review process.

Kevin Burnett referred to HERS (Hospital Education Reintegration Service) travel and how changes to this structure had affected how some young people are able to access this service. He asked if any comment could be given on whether the resources allocated to the service were being used as expected.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that they would have to make enquiries on this point and form a response for the Panel.

Kevin Burnett asked if this policy solely related to SEND pupils and was there a separate travel policy for non-SEND pupils.

The Head of SEND replied that yes there was a separate travel policy for non-SEND pupils, without an EHCP, for when they live over three miles away from their school.

Councillor Ruth Malloy asked if the independent travel training could take place prior to Year 10 if deemed appropriate for the child or young person.

The Head of SEND replied that all three of the Special Schools within B&NES offer this service and it was considered that a definite date needed to be put in place for when this issue will at least be first discussed. She added that the schools make the judgement for when it is most appropriate to begin these discussions.

The Chair on behalf of the Panel thanked all parties that had taken part in the review and the consultation process.

## **129 SAFETY VALVE UPDATE**

Councillor Paul May introduced this item to the Panel and began by apologising that they were unable to provide a full report at this stage. He said that this was a complicated area of work and was a major issue for the Council to get correct.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding added that the Council has until May 24th to submit updated plans to the Department for Education (DfE), working closely with three DfE-appointed Safety Valve advisers.

He informed the Panel that an independent review of the finances and plans involved has been carried out and that they are working on refinements within their existing plan.

He said that Safety Valve is an opportunity for rapid service improvement to be achieved in the following areas.

- Early Help
- SEND Support
- Free School / AP School capital investments
- 7 new Resource Bases
- Bolster SEND Team Leadership

He stated that all draft plans have been shared with the local Parent & Carer forums.

Kevin Burnett said that it should be acknowledged the excellent work the officers within the Council do for their pupils with SEND. He said he was concerned though as to whether this work will put them under undue pressure / scrutiny from the DfE in terms of cost cutting from what they would like to see versus what B&NES needs.

He asked if assurances could be given with regard to being able to stick to their plan, once it has been submitted, and not to have to dilute on the request of the DfE. He added that it was acknowledged that all of these issues, especially the new schools would take time.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding thanked him for his comments and replied that there were no plans to reduce the amount of funding through our EHCPs and that the plans contain the right level of service investment. He added that he was very comfortable that the plans will not be detrimental to the Council.



Councillor Robin Moss commented that the Council is in the position it is in because the current Government has been removing funds from Councils for many years. He stated that he was concerned that services would be continued to be cut in order to fund the National Insurance tax cut plans due for September.

He asked how confident was the Cabinet Member for Children's Services that these plans will come to fruition, especially for those schools that will be expecting to receive certain services.

Councillor May replied that if plans within Safety Valve should fail it will leave a lot of Local Authorities in trouble and stated the Government needs to provide these services to our schools and our young people. He added that the officers involved have worked tirelessly in a professional way to have these plans in place. He stated that Early Help provision must remain in place and that they would endeavour to submit a full report to the Panel on this issue in due course.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked why the Council has failed to meet its original targets that were submitted to the DfE and how confident are we that by submitting this revised plan that the payments from the DfE will be reactivated, and what will happen if the plan is not achievable.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that in terms of the initial plan negotiations they probably did not allow themselves enough time to achieve their proposals. He added that if the finances are not received it will be an issue, but that officers will do all they can to achieve the set targets.

He said that the deficit does not sit on the Council's budget line currently and therefore this is an unknown factor at this stage.

Kevin Burnett commented that the current situation has been determined by the years of austerity and cuts that have been made to school's services and SEND provision and asked what will happen if schools do not have provision in place for pupils who have an EHCP.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that the academisation process within B&NES was quite rapid and that school services then became the responsibility of those academies and there remains a degree of inconsistency about services that are provided by them. He added that the Council could become proactive in this area if national policy was to be updated.

Councillor May stated that this was major issue and the decisions taken will affect the whole Council.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to approve the following recommendations.

- i) The Panel was briefed on the progress to date on the direction of our safety valve work.
- ii) The Panel was assured that the Local Authority and its partners are working to deliver a programme of work that improves services, delivers more school places for children with SEND and reduces financial pressures.

- iii) In consultation with parents/carers, and stakeholders we have renamed our programme the SEND Collaboration for BaNES, as this reflects the overarching aims of the work.
- iv) Note that the financial issues facing the Council are a national issue affecting all Local Authorities. The council's position is that SEND remains an area of Education policy in urgent need of reform, and that the current system is dramatically underfunded.

## 130 SACRE ANNUAL REPORT

Councillor Eleanor Jackson addressed the Panel. A copy of her statement will be attached as an online appendix to these minutes whilst a summary is set out below.

We flatter ourselves in this country about the degree of 'tolerance' towards and between the main faith communities and individual 'people of faith' but I think this is meaningless if it is based on ignorance and lack of understanding. Conversely, the Hebrew Scriptures Book of Psalms explain more about the Israeli attack on Gaza than any BBC news guru. Religious faith itself is meaningless if it is kept as a private hobby and does not address real life problems.

So where does this leave SACRE? We should thank the officer and the RE advisor for producing the Report, but it should be appreciated that more than any other council work I can think of, it is volunteers at the heart of it. We owe a special debt to Jane O'Hara, the chair, from the Bath Inter-Faith Group.

The SACRE report is not about 'naming and shaming', though we know from the recent OFSTED Report that about a third of schools in England do not observe their legal obligations. Rather, it is to identify and commend good practice, and to encourage schools with resources and advice, as well as training, for example on the Holocaust.

It is still my ambition to produce material on 'black religious experience' and utilise Fairfield House appropriately. SACRE is about opening children's eyes to a new world where they can develop their spirituality and ethics and co-operate in society, whether they believe or not.

Councillor May said that he would like to encourage all young people to have an understanding of the many religions and beliefs that are present in society today.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked if the increased budget of £15,000, agreed last year, was now the baseline figure that would be carried forward.

The Head of Education Commissioning replied that it was her understanding that this figure was now the baseline budget.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to note the report.

**Cllr Jackson SACRE Annual Report 2024**

## 131 PANEL WORKPLAN

The Chair introduced the workplan to the Panel and the following subjects were noted as potential future items of discussion.

- Suicide Prevention
- Safety Valve Update
- Budget Update – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector providers
- GP Services – Access / Waiting times / Closures (ICB Update)
- Dental Services / Provision (ICB Update)

The Panel **RESOLVED** to note their current workplan alongside these proposals for future work areas.

The meeting ended at 12.29 pm

Chair(person) .....

Date Confirmed and Signed .....

**Prepared by Democratic Services**

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**Lead Member PDS Report 13/05/2024.**

**1. DFE confirmation regarding Alternative Provision School in B&NES.**

The fact that this has now finally been confirmed means we have two major capital educational schemes in the B&NES area. The officers will supply details but the need to provide education on the Culverhay site means we will be promoting that location for both schools with the added advantage that joint facilities will probably be made available for the public. The cabinet will consider the in-principle decision on the 6th of June 2024. The site is still a corporate location, but this starts the opportunity for an exciting education based future. This decision is needed to progress design options moving forward.

**2. Care experienced protected status.**

The unanimous council support is being followed up in a number of ways. Within the authority, we are discussing moving from Band B to Band A on the housing waiting list for care experienced young people. We need to explore more regarding apprenticeships and work experience schemes within the council.

We are talking to Bath University about a memorandum of understanding which may include one or two scholarships, adopting the principle for all students, developing a mentoring scheme, possible accommodation support and apprenticeship schemes.

The RUH have agreed the status, and the Director of ops is raising the issue with the Future Ambitions Board. The vice chair raised the issue, and we welcome any positive ideas at this meeting, please?

**3. School streets.**

As promised, I met Councillor Wright for a briefing on this scheme and have raised the idea at senior level. The chair of the Sustainable Communities Committee have the scheme on their agenda and has agreed to work with CAHW committee moving forward. The scheme needs strong school support, so I have asked for an item to be placed on the next School's Standard Board ( 16th July 2024).

**4. SACRE Annual Report is on the agenda.**

It is important that multi faith teachings help children to understand each other at an early age as possible.

**5. Regional Fostering Southwest Hub.**

At a regional Lead Members meeting we were briefed about a new regional system that has just started. The aim is to simplify initial contacts with potential foster families and then our normal systems start.

It is a trial for one year so we will need to keep it under review to ensure it works effectively for us. In house foster care remains the most effective and cost-efficient solution for vulnerable young people in care.

## **6. Skills.**

In addition to education as young people move into further education and skills, it is important to seek opportunities for developing higher level skills development linked into business opportunities. As a result, we have started discussions with the college around the SVEZ scheme to provide training during and after the construction phase.

## **7. Children's homes in Banes.**

A feasibility study has been requested late summer to judge whether services can be brought back in house. It is a reflection of the cost of expensive out of area provision at the moment but is not clear whether it is suitable for the small number of complex needs of children in care?

## **8. St Johns/Early Years Update**

Please find attached as an appendix 2 presentations shared at the Health and Wellbeing Board on 02/05/2024 detailing the joint work around the Language for Life Project .





**ST JOHN'S  
FOUNDATION**  
CELEBRATING 850 YEARS





# Strategy



- Older people ('**Ageing well...**)
- Crisis
- Children ('**Best start in life...**')

...our Best start in life **vision** is to build a community where every child under 12 is supported to grow into a happy, healthy and educated member of our community.

...our ambition is to significantly reduce the Key Stage 2 educational attainment gap.




# Manifesto: map of programmes



Strategic objectives ('manifesto')		
<b>Support with educational <u>basics</u></b> (oracy, literacy & maths)	<b>Support with social &amp; emotional development</b>	<b>Encouraging nurture at home and in the community</b> (access to nutritious food and 'safe places')
<b>Primary Empowerment (ages 5 – 11)</b>		<b>Nutritious Food</b>
<b>Language for Life (ages 2-4)</b>	<b>Early Nurture (ages 2-4).</b>	
	<b>Perinatal Emotional Wellbeing (age 0+).</b>	
<b>Big Education research project (ages 5-11).</b>		
	<b>Glasshouse Academy (Bath Recreation Ltd) (ages 9-12).</b>	

# Website Impact Report

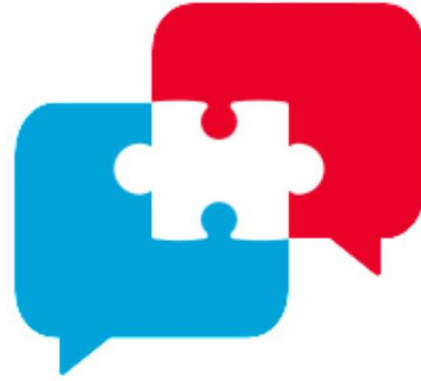




## Best start in life

Our vision is for every child to grow up to be happy, healthy and educated members of our community.

Find out more



# LANGUAGE FOR LIFE

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

# Content

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CONTEXT  
AND  
RATIONALE



PROJECT  
DETAIL AND  
OUTCOMES



FEEDBACK



NEXT STEPS  
AND LEGACY



QUESTIONS



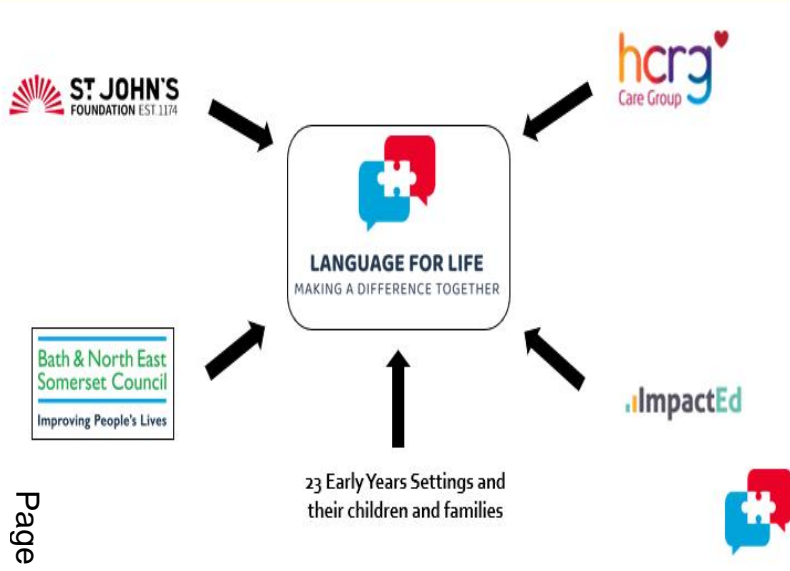
# Project Context

- EYFS Profile data outcomes for the cohort in receipt of FSM are amongst the lowest of all local authorities in England.
- The Bercow report 2018 – “the ability to communicate is fundamental to learning, to relationships and to life chances”.
- Early Intervention is crucial and “means a child is able to start school with confidence, ready to learn and flourish” ( Anne Longfield, Children’s Commissioner 2019)
- Jean Gross - Closing the word gap: Learning from five areas who have gained ground



## Multi-agency pilot project focussed on closing the persistent word gap which impacts on children's later outcomes.

- Targeting early communication and language needs with children aged 18 months to 4 years 11 months.
- Two-year pilot in two key areas of the LA.
- 23 early years settings have children who are in receipt of 2-yr-funding/EY Pupil Premium and feed to one of 6 Primary Empowerment Project schools.
- **Key focus:** to upskill staff to support children within their setting, particularly those unlikely to meet specialist thresholds.



“The ability to communicate is fundamental to learning, to relationships and to life chances” Bercow Report 2018



# The WellComm Toolkit

An evidence-based assessment and intervention programme designed for use by early years practitioners to support language development.

All early years practitioners are trained to use the toolkit to screen all children in their setting who are 1:06 years or older. .

Screening identifies children as:

- **Green** - no additional intervention needed,
- **Amber** - extra support and intervention needed within the setting, or
- **Red** - extra support and intervention needed and referral to specialist services should be considered

After assessment there are resources available so that immediate interventions can be put in place. These are a collection of play based activities known to be effective.

Regular screening will monitor progress and number of children who move up the bands can be used to measure effectiveness of interventions



## Support visits

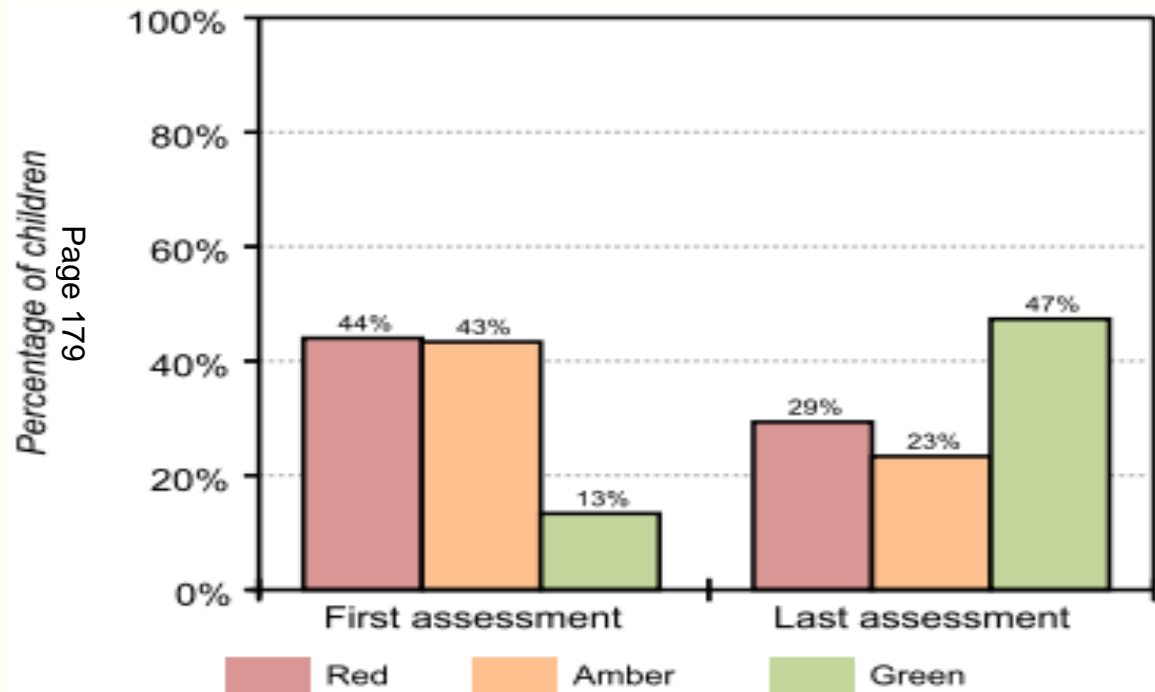
As well as supporting use of toolkit, the speech and language therapist helps settings to create a language rich environment and offers responsive training and support alongside Early Years team visits.

The LfL team support settings to identify Communication Champions who are offered additional training to ensure that learning and use of the toolkit is embedded.

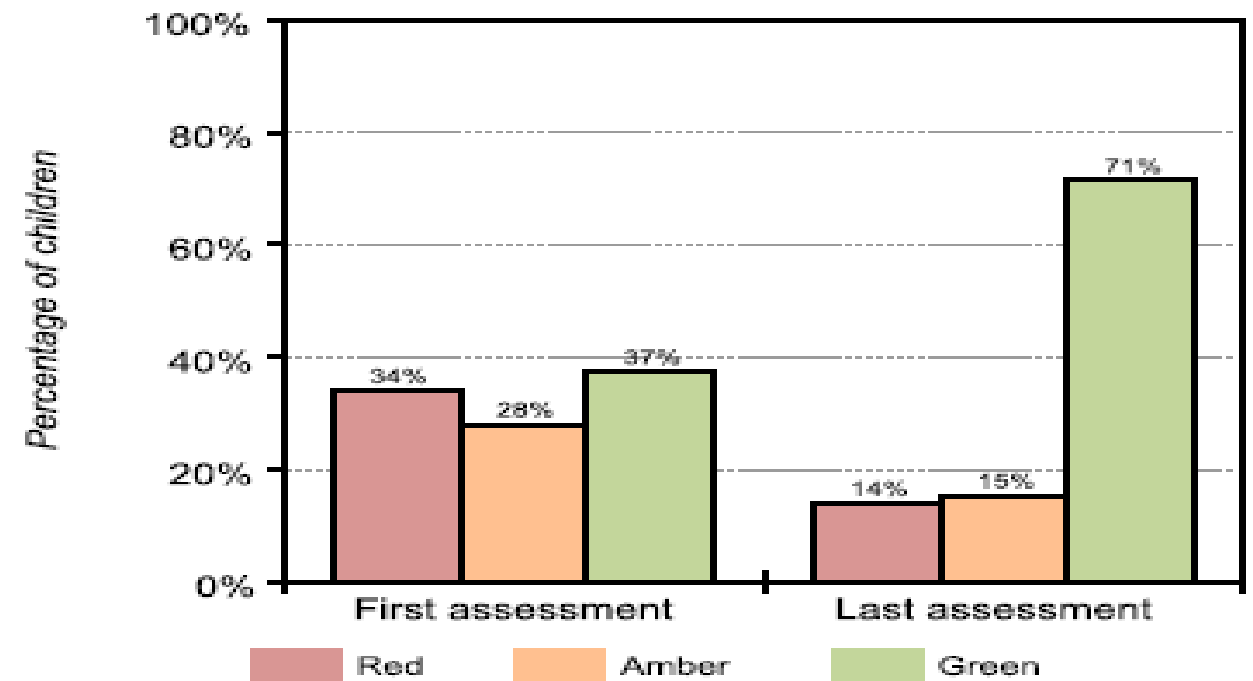
Families are involved throughout.



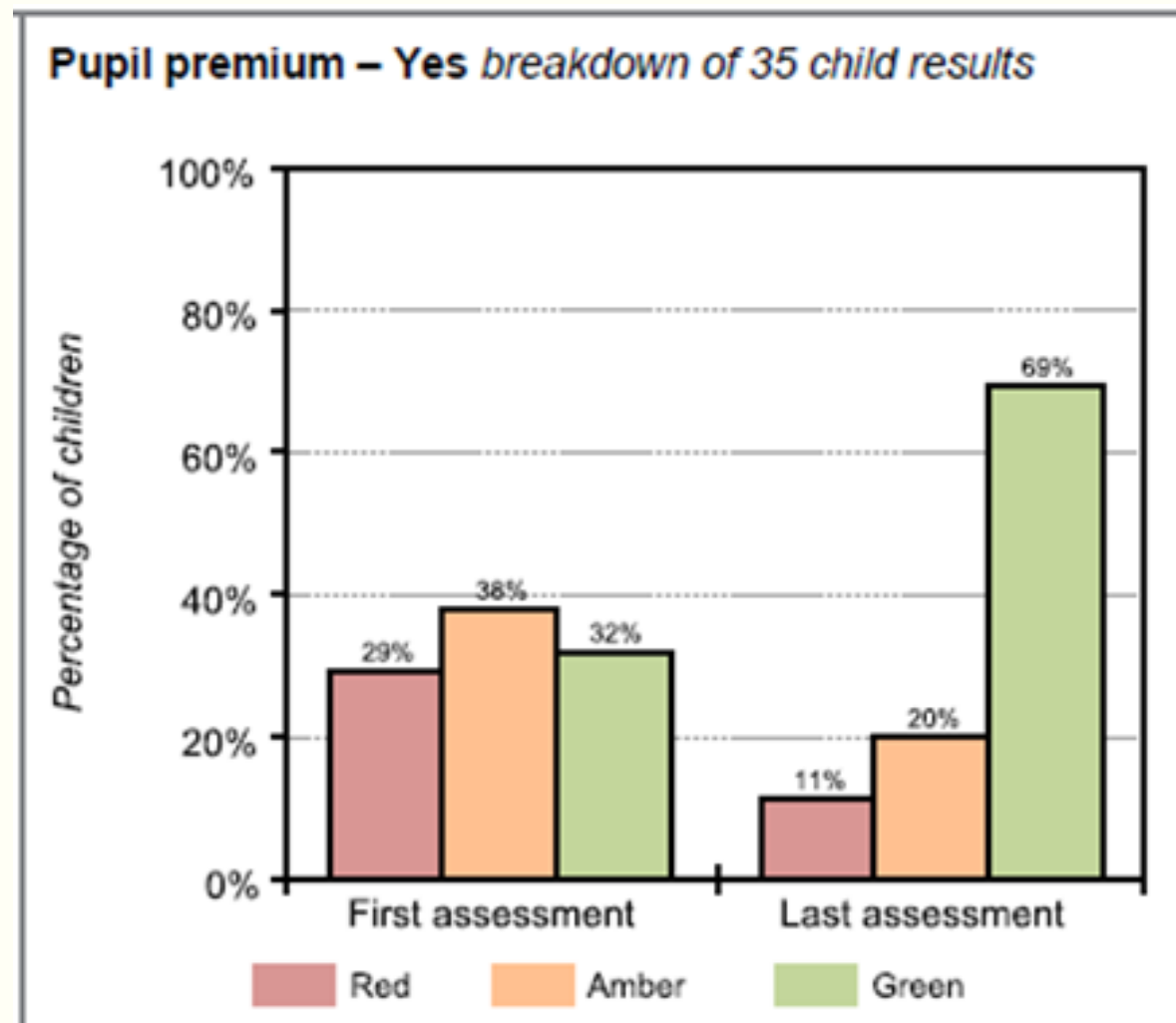
## Project Year 1 Sept 21- June 22



## Project Year 2 Sept 22- June 23



# Children recorded to be in receipt of EYPP using the report Wizard Sept 22 -23



## Feedback from families:

...The support my child's setting has given has been such an invaluable resource. His speech development has come on brilliantly .... The language for life targets and WellComm toolkit have been really useful to highlight areas of my child's speech that needs working on and also areas that he has progressed well with as well.....This type of community / primary care support has been hugely beneficial to my child and us as a family too.

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## Feedback from services

Several children on the Preschool Language Service caseload have made such incredible progress on their targets with their setting, that by the time they attend clinic for a review, they are in the green zone and we assess them to be within age expectations for the language skills.



# Feedback from settings:

*Our setting has embedded the WellComm screening and interventions into our setting's ethos, vision and values. All staff are enjoying being part of the project and are seeing children make progress.*

*We have faced ongoing staffing challenges, despite this our setting has remained dedicated to the success of the project. We can see how much it has helped our children and families. We feel more confident at supporting language difficulties.*

*We have found that there are even more children that were red or amber and are now in the green zone this year, compared to last year. Most of these children are going to school and have had 18 months of screening and support from us.*

*We have noticed lots of children have moved from amber and red into green zones within 6 months of target support. This matches with our observations of the children's progress with their language during play. We think having a carefully planned target monitoring form for each room, has helped to support the red and amber children.*



# Ofsted Feedback:

*“The childminder knows how to support children with special educational need and/or disabilities. She works in partnership with parents and professionals, such as the speech and language therapist, and offers early intervention. The childminder is currently implementing a local initiative called 'LfL' to help improve the speech and language outcomes for children under five years. As part of this programme, she has been focusing on linking activities and asking specific questions to target children's communication and language needs.”*

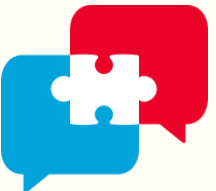
## **EY Setting Ofsted Report -2022**

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*The childminder supports children's language development well. All children are making good progress in this area of learning due to the effective strategies put in place by the childminder. For instance, she narrates their play, introduces new words and encourages children to join in conversation as they play...the childminder attends training, such as LfL project. As a result, the children benefit from a well-planned and delivered curriculum in this area of learning.*

## **EY Setting Ofsted Report – 2023**

*“Children's listening, attention and literacy skills are strong... Children show good communication and language skills, including those who speak English as an additional language... The SENCO works diligently with outside professionals to ensure that children get the help they need.”*

## **EY Setting Ofsted Report -2023**



# Next steps and legacy

- Language for Life pilot evaluation report completed
- New project business case for the further rollout of Language for Life across B&NES has been approved
- Double roll-out – initially 45 settings across Radstock, Midsomer Norton and Paulton areas.
- Project legacy: Pilot settings invited to join the LFL Quality Mark to include Communication Champion support; new practitioner catch-up training and ongoing whole setting training. Settings will continue to use the Wellcomm toolkit and submit outcomes.





**LANGUAGE FOR LIFE**  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

Questions?

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## **Report for Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel – Monday 13 May 2024**

### **Health Inequalities funding update**

BSW Integrated Care Board is working to tackle health inequalities across BaNES, Swindon in Wiltshire. In BaNES, a health inequalities core network team was established in May 2023 which has been working with the BaNES Integrated Care Alliance to improve health and reduce inequalities respectively through the local implementation of the BSW Integrated Care Strategy and the B&NES Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The team works closely with partners in a number of areas including overseeing a cross-partnership BaNES Health Inequalities Network, awareness raising, supporting health inequalities work at the RU and in primary care, holding outreach events and coordinating and allocating health inequality-related funding streams and leading applications for any further grants relating to health inequalities.

Grants have been awarded to 12 projects in BaNES for 2024/25 including inclusive afterschool clubs for children with SEND, perinatal mental health support, targeted family support for vulnerable families in Twerton and developing a new service for people experiencing homelessness to access palliative and end of life care.

### **Royal United Hospitals awarded £21.6m grant for energy efficiency projects**

A £21.6million decarbonisation grant will bring the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust one step closer to achieving its net zero goals.

The grant has been awarded by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero as part of the Salix Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and will fund improvements including more environmentally friendly lighting, insulation, and heating and cooling controls.

Most of the funds will be used to de-steam much of the RUH's 52-acre site, a process that will see the hospital's ageing heating systems replaced with more energy-efficient options such as heat pumps. Together, these initiatives will make the hospital more sustainable, and a more pleasant environment for all those who use it.

When the proposed improvements are completed, by 2026, they will result in an estimated 24 per cent annual reduction in carbon emissions over which the RUH has direct control. This equates to just over 3,400 tonnes of carbon dioxide – the equivalent of just under 1,000 return flights to Seoul, or more than 150,000 car journeys from Bath to London, every single year.

## Dental Van update

On 7<sup>th</sup> February, the Department of Health and Social Care published its Dental Recovery Plan with the ambition to make dental services faster, simpler, and fairer for our population. One priority is to bring dental care directly to under-served, more isolated communities via the deployment of mobile dental vans. On the same day as the dental recovery plan was published, the Secretary of State named the 12 ICBs where dental access remains most challenging, which included BSW ICB.

Since then, scoping work has been carried out nationally to map the details of existing vehicles delivering dental services across the country, with consideration to potential staffing models to reflect the expectation that the vans will deliver Band 1, Band 2a and Band 2b dental treatments. Options are now being appraised for the acquisition of vehicles, and a national market engagement exercise as part of a procurement exercise has taken place. We are still waiting for the service specification. We are keen in BSW to ensure these plans support and supplement the ongoing local work with the Public Health teams to support access and our focus on inequalities and oral health plans – as presented at the last ICB Board meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March. We will be using our collective learning gained during the pandemic on the use of other non-van options, such as the use of local facilities for pop-up services.

We are working across the South West and as an ICB we are scoping the unmet need and vulnerable populations and key demographic areas for a targeted approach, including specific areas for the van to deliver services with a view the service will commence September / October 2024.

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education. 13 May 2024

Statement by Dr Eleanor Jackson, former senior lecturer in religious studies and council representative on SACRE

Thank you for giving me time this morning to introduce you to the issues in the Annual Report. I am assuming you have all 'done your homework' so that I do not have to discuss the content in too much detail. However, it may not be obvious to those of you who are not familiar with role religious education plays in our schools and the legal requirements laid down since the 1944 Education Act and its successors just how important the subject is, even while you welcome BANES excellence.

We flatter ourselves in this country about the degree of 'tolerance' towards and between the main faith communities and individual 'people of faith' but I think this is meaningless if it is based on ignorance and lack of understanding. Conversely, the Hebrew Scriptures Book of Psalms explain more about the Israeli attack on Gaza than any BBC news guru. Religious faith itself is meaningless if it is kept as a private hobby and does not address real life problems. For example, climate change is not just a scientific hypothesis, but for the Abrahamic faiths, the destruction of God's creation. This belief should re-inforce action to save the planet.

So where does this leave SACRE? We should thank the officer and the RE advisor for producing the Report, but it should be appreciated that more than any other council work I can think of, it is volunteers at the heart of it. We owe a special debt to Jane O'Hara, the chair, from the Bath Inter-Faith Group and the Ba'hai community. Apart from myself and Dr Pankhania who represent BANES, volunteers come from the faith communities and associated bodies such as Ammerdown.

The SACRE report is not about 'naming and shaming', though we know from the recent OFSTED Report that about a third of schools in England do not observe their legal obligations. Rather, it is to identify and commend good practice, and to encourage schools with resources and advice, as well as training, for example on the Holocaust. We subsidize visits to places of worship. We are proud of the national awards to our schools.

It is still my ambition to produce material on 'black religious experience', and utilise Fairfield House appropriately. SACRE is about opening children's eyes to a new world where they can develop their spirituality and ethics and co-operate in society, whether they believe or not.

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