

Part 3.8 Appeals Panels and Other Bodies

INDEX

- 1. Slough Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)**
- 2. Corporate Parenting Panel**
- 3. Slough Local Access Forum (LAF)**

1. SLOUGH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

1.0 The SACRE is established in accordance with the Education Act 1996.

2.0 Membership

2.1 The Members of the SACRE shall be appointed by the Authority so that they shall represent the following groups. The Council shall take all reasonable steps to assure itself that an individual appointed to represent any religion, denomination or association is representative of the same.

Committee 1 – Christian denominations (except the Church of England) and other religions (12)

The Free Churches (1)
The Black Free Churches (1)
The Roman Catholic Church (1)
Hinduism (1)
Islam (4)
Judaism (1)
Sikhism (2)
Baha'is (1)

Committee 2 – The Church of England (4)

Committee 3 – Teachers (representing Primary, Secondary and Special Schools (6)

Committee 4 – The Authority (5)

2.2 Committee 4 shall be subject to the proportionality requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

2.3 No Member appointed to the Cabinet shall be appointed to the SACRE.

The SACRE shall be appointed by the Council.

2.4 Members of the SACRE shall serve from the date of their appointment for a term of three years or until their successors are appointed by the Council. They shall be eligible for reappointment after each term for a further term by consultation, if necessary, with the group which they represent. The Council may remove any individual if, in its opinion, the individual ceases to be representative of the religion, denomination or association which they were appointed to represent or where appointed to Committee 4, a member of the Council.

2.5 Where a nominated representative fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the SACRE and fails to give their apologies s/he, shall cease to be a member of the SACRE and the nominating body shall be invited to nominate another representative provided that:

- (a) the Clerk to the SACRE has advised the member in writing of the provision of this clause following the second missed meeting and at least a 10 working days before the third meeting.
- (b) SACRE does not decide to disapply this rule for reasons of extenuating circumstances.

3.0 Terms of Reference

3.1 In accordance with Section 390 and 391 of the Education Act 1996 to advise the Council on:

- (a) such matters connected with religious worship in community or foundation schools which do not have a religious character and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed or other syllabus as the authority may refer to it or as it may see fit
- (b) To advise, in particular, on methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers.

On application made by a Head Teacher of any community or foundation school not designated as having a religious character, consider whether it is appropriate for the requirement for Christian collective worship to apply in the case of that school, or in the case of any class or description of pupils at that school. SACRE shall give the Head Teacher written notification of its decision.

- 3.2 The representative groups on the SACRE other than that representing the authority may at any time require a review of any agreed syllabus for the time being adopted by the authority.
- 3.3 The SACRE shall each year publish a report on its proceedings and those of its representative groups, the report to specify any matters on which the SACRE has given advice to the authority and the reasons for offering that advice.
- 3.4 On any question to be decided by SACRE, each of the four committee groups set out above are entitled to one single vote.

2 Corporate Parenting Panel

Purpose of the Corporate Parenting Panel

- 1.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel assists the Council to fulfil its legal obligations and responsibilities towards looked after children and care experienced young people, under the Children Act 1989 and associated legislation, including the corporate parenting principles set out in section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- 1.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel (the 'Panel') is a collaborative forum. It is not a decision-making body of Slough Borough Council. Its role is to advise the Lead Member for Children's Services and other elected member

bodies on how to deliver better outcomes for children and young people in care and care experienced young people.

1.3 In particular this includes ensuring the Council and its relevant partners comply with the corporate parenting principles:

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people;
- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

2. Responsibilities of the Corporate Parenting Panel

2.1 The Panel should:

- Champion and provide clear strategic and political direction in relation to corporate parenting
- Support the development of a corporate parenting strategy and to monitor and review its implementation.
- Focus on improving outcomes for looked after children and care experienced young people.
- To consider recommendations from internal and external inspections and reviews.
- To hear the voice of looked after children and care experienced young people, including involving them in meetings.
- To monitor the education needs of care experienced children, promoting positive engagement of education partners in corporate parenting.
- To ensure the Council actively promotes opportunities for children looked after and care experienced young people across the whole Council
- To ensure that the voice and opinions of as wide a range of care experienced children and young people, including those with disabilities, are heard and that their views are used to co-produce services, shape policy and monitor performance.
- To advise the Lead Member for Children's Services, Cabinet and other relevant member bodies on issues relating to corporate parenting.
- To advise the Slough Children First board and other partners on issues relating to corporate parenting.
- To report annually to the Council on the work of the Panel.

3.0 Membership

3.1 Membership will be reviewed annually as follows:

(a) For the council by the relevant political groups, at the commencement of each municipal year.

3.2 All six elected member appointments to the Panel by the Council will be made on a politically proportionate basis.

3.3 Attendance at meetings

Looked after children and care experienced young people and carers will be invited to attend meetings on a topic by topic basis and provided with opportunities to facilitate their involvement, including informal meetings to allow views to be sought and represented to the panel by members. In addition the Panel members are expected to attend events to meet relevant children and young people and people associated with corporate parenting responsibilities.

Chairing the Panel

3.4 The Panel shall elect a chair at its first meeting each municipal year.

3.5 The Lead Member for Children's Services shall be entitled to attend the panel as a participating observer.

3.6 The co-opted members of the Panel shall be as follows:

- The council's Executive Director of People - Children
- Chief Executive, Slough Children First (if different to the Executive Director)
- Director of Education
- Foster carer
- The council's Service lead for strategic housing services
- Thames Valley Police representative (will attend when necessary)
- Designated Nurse for Children in Care
- Virtual School Headteacher
- The council's service lead for Communities and Leisure

The panel can elect to invite representatives of the children in care council, care experienced children and carers and other relevant representatives on a topic by topic basis or for the whole of a municipal year. Consideration should be given to a representative for specific groups of children and young people, for instance unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and children with disabilities.

4.0 Operation of the Panel

Meetings

- 4.1 The Panel will meet a minimum of four times a year.
- 4.2 Each meeting of the Panel will be based on one or more of the key corporate parenting principles set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- 4.3 Where possible the meetings should be available to view by the public, even if public attendance is not possible. Due to the nature of some of the work of the panel, some meetings are not held in public, however in these situation agenda papers and minutes should be made public where these do not disclose confidential information. The annual report must be published.
- 4.4 The Panel will provide an annual report to the Council and has the right to report to Cabinet or other elected member forums such as overview and scrutiny.

4. SLOUGH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM (LAF)

1.0 The LAF is a statutory advisory forum set up in accordance with s.94 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It provides advice and guidance to the Council, any body exercising functions under Part 1 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and other prescribed bodies as to the improvement of public access to land in that area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area, and as to such other matters as may be prescribed by legislation.

2.0 Membership of the LAF

2.1 The LAF consists of no fewer than 10 and no more than 22 members. Where membership is not more than 16 members, no more than 2 may be members of the Council. Where membership is at least 17 members, no more than 3 may be members of the Council.

2.2 The members of LAF must be persons who appear to the Council to be representative of users of local rights of way or rights of public in relation to access land, owners and occupiers of access land or land over which local rights of way subsist or any other interests especially relevant to the Council's area. A reasonable balance between the number of members who represent the interests of users of rights of way and those who represent owners or occupiers of land will be maintained.

2.3 Before appointing any members, the Council must advertise the vacancy in such local or regional newspapers as appropriate and on its website and consult such persons as they consider appropriate. This requirement does not apply to members of the Council appointed to the LAF.

2.4 A Chairperson and Vice-chairperson will be elected by the LAF from amongst those people appointed to be members. Their terms of office will be decided by the LAF, with a limit provided by the length of time that they were appointed to serve as members.

2.5 Membership of the LAF will be regularly reviewed by the Council, with formal reviews every 3 years. Each appointment of a member shall be for a period of 1 to 3 years, with the option of renewal on expiry in each case subject to compliance with regulations.

2.6 Members of the LAF must declare any direct or indirect interest in any matter being considered and must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting.

3.0 Role and responsibilities of the LAF

3.1 To advise relevant organisations on the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment. In particular, to have regard to:

- (a) the needs of land management,

- (b) the desirability of conserving the natural beauty of the area for which it is established, including the flora, fauna and geological and physiographical features of the area, and
- (c) guidance given from time to time by the Secretary of State

- 3.2 The LAF must prepare an annual report on the discharge of its functions, which should be published by the Council on its website.
- 3.3 LAF meetings are open to the public, subject to powers of exclusion to prevent or suppress disorderly conduct or other misbehaviour, and advertised in advance.
- 3.4 Agendas and papers for the meetings will be available to the public at least 3 clear days before each meeting, except that when the meeting is convened at shorter notice, the agenda and papers will be open for inspection from the time that the meeting is convened.