

## **SACRE - 18 March 2024**

### **Inclusion Update**

#### **1. Inclusion Consultation**

Since September 2023 various conversations and consultations have been undertaken to develop a ten-year inclusion strategy and plan, with the targeted launch date of June 2024.

#### **2. Methodology:**

- One to one interviews of key individuals
- Service user interviews
- Service Delivery staff and volunteers
- Community members / groups
- Group consultation with service users
- Locality based Facebook group questions
- Google survey
- Commissioned targeted group to group consultation surveys
- Commissioned group to group face to face consultation
- Reviews of recent consultations
- Event attendance – focused interviews

#### **3. Groups and individuals consulted include:**

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Elderly                    | Young People               |
| • Disability                 | Carers                     |
| • Care Leavers               | Gypsy, Travellers and Roma |
| • Homeless                   | Addiction services         |
| • All Community Associations | Europeans                  |
| • Africans                   | British Caribbeans         |
| • Sikh                       | Hindu                      |
| • Christians                 | Muslims                    |
| • LGBTQ+                     | Mental Health              |
| • Young Parents              | Deaf / Hearing impaired    |
| • Vision impaired            | White British              |

#### **4. School Related Considerations:**

Secondary schools should consider how they consider the wellbeing of minority groups or minority individuals. Racial, religious and homophobic / gender fluency - based bullying is reported to be commonplace and difference is often an indicator of risk of been treated differently or bullied.

Current issues in Palestine are also having an impact on faith relations.

#### **5. Faith Based Findings**

All faiths where people of colour worship reported regular racism but were not reporting to police.

##### **Christianity**

- The foodbank is making a huge difference with those in or on the edges of poverty
- Romanian Orthodox have no appropriate place of worship
- Beliefs and language barriers
- Faith important to newly arrived residents and Europeans – not as secular as existing UK (Walsall) residents.
- African Christians felt inclusive from a nationality perspective
- Forgiveness of racism (pray for them)
- African Caribbean Christian tension (Africans made to feel inferior)
- Use places of worship to disseminate information / services.
- Food banks / poverty solutions / volunteering done through faith / church.
- Young People feel connected to church but not the UK
- In school, Caribbean heritage children make it clear their peers are African and not Caribbean
- Faith awareness needs to be increased on Christianity and the diversity of the faith

##### **Hinduism**

- Young People felt elders are judgemental and non-inclusive
- Elders feel community is very welcoming.
- Judgemental of Muslims
- Hindu celebrations are important but not celebrated – need to do more
- Suffered racism and prejudice
- Impact and influence of social media
- Hindu Form – pro Modi (why important as key players are key individuals in statutory sector)
- Temple against Modi
- Good Sikh / Hindu relations, less so Islam

##### **Islam**

- Israel / Palestine is influencing school experience and raising division
- Tensions exist between different schools of Islam
- Cultural gender inequality
- Islamophobia increasing
- Food banks and homeless charity is undertaken weekly
- International charity is common place

## **Sikhism**

- Elders did not respond
- Young People – faced racism and discrimination.
- Small and trusted friend circle – Sikhs or Indian
- White people are perceived to be racist or prejudice
- MLSS / homeless feed key to people in poverty
- Gurdwara feed homeless
- Volunteering linked to good deeds and service
- Free food dropped off at Vasaki (in April) to local homes – procession homes or watching parade
- Covid / vaccinations – inclusive
- Limits who they engage with – Muslims / Pakistani grooming.
- Long standing religious related tensions – linked to mogul empire / partition.
- Really good interfaith relations linked to a shared racism experience from white communities
- Unreported racism – more ambassadors needed