



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – 24TH FEBRUARY 2010

SUBJECT: THE RESILIENCE PROJECT : UPDATE

REPORT BY: ESIS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The report is to inform members of the resilience project.

2. CONTEXT

2.1 REsilience is a Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) sponsored project designed to support the government's community cohesion strategy. The contract for the project was secured by the RE Council (REC) and it runs from 15th June 2009 till 31st March 2011.

2.2 The DCSF and DCELLS have agreed the inclusion of Wales in the project.

3. BROAD AIMS OF THE PROJECT

3.1 To develop and deliver a training programme for teachers of RE.

3.2 To improve RE teachers' skills including confidence and competence in facilitating pupils' critical thinking around controversial issues, particularly those that relate to religion, belief, ethnicity, negative stereotyping and religious extremism.

3.3 To improve RE teachers' subject knowledge in the areas of community cohesion and violent extremism by focusing on a deeper understanding of the theological teachings on issues such as conflict, respect appreciation and understanding of different religions and beliefs.

4. SPECIFIC PROJECT OBJECTIVES

4.1 Develop a suite of materials to underpin the development of appropriate knowledge and skills of teachers of RE.

4.2 Engage with maintained secondary schools/ colleges (approx 20% in Wales).

4.3 Deliver face to face sessions for teachers with trainer/ mentors from the project.

5. PLANNING

5.1 Phase 1 : Planning and Research - June to September 2009.

5.2 Phase 2 : Development of the training package - October 2009 to March 2010.

5.3 Phase 3 : Delivery of the training - April 2010 to March 2011.

6. PROCESS

6.1 A small number of schools in Wales (about 7) will be invited to participate and they will complete a survey on their CPD needs.

6.2 These schools will be able to access face to face sessions with trainer/ mentors from the project (Summer 2010).

6.3 Schools involved in the pilot will feedback their perceptions and opinions on the project.

6.4 Training materials will be adapted in the light of piloting- Summer 2010.

6.5 The process will be repeated with a cohort of schools in Wales in Autumn 2010.

6.6 A monthly project newsletter will keep updated those involved in the project.

7. RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Members are invited to discuss and note the report.

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