

Notice of Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education



Date: Wednesday, 12 November 2025 at 4.00 pm

Venue: Teams Meeting (Online)

Membership:

Chairman:

V Saunders

Vice Chairman:

L Ford-Horne

R Lawton

Knight

N Ford

B Joshi

S Hawksworth

M Kanamia

D Kenchington

P Thomson

B Kaur

J Kelly

P Ruffle

K Barker

C Jones

T Willis

S Jones

Cllr M Cox

Cllr M Le Poidevin

D Pegg

All Members of the Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=6051>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Nicky Hooley or email Nicky.hooley@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 454668 or email press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

AIDAN DUNN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

4 November 2025

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app

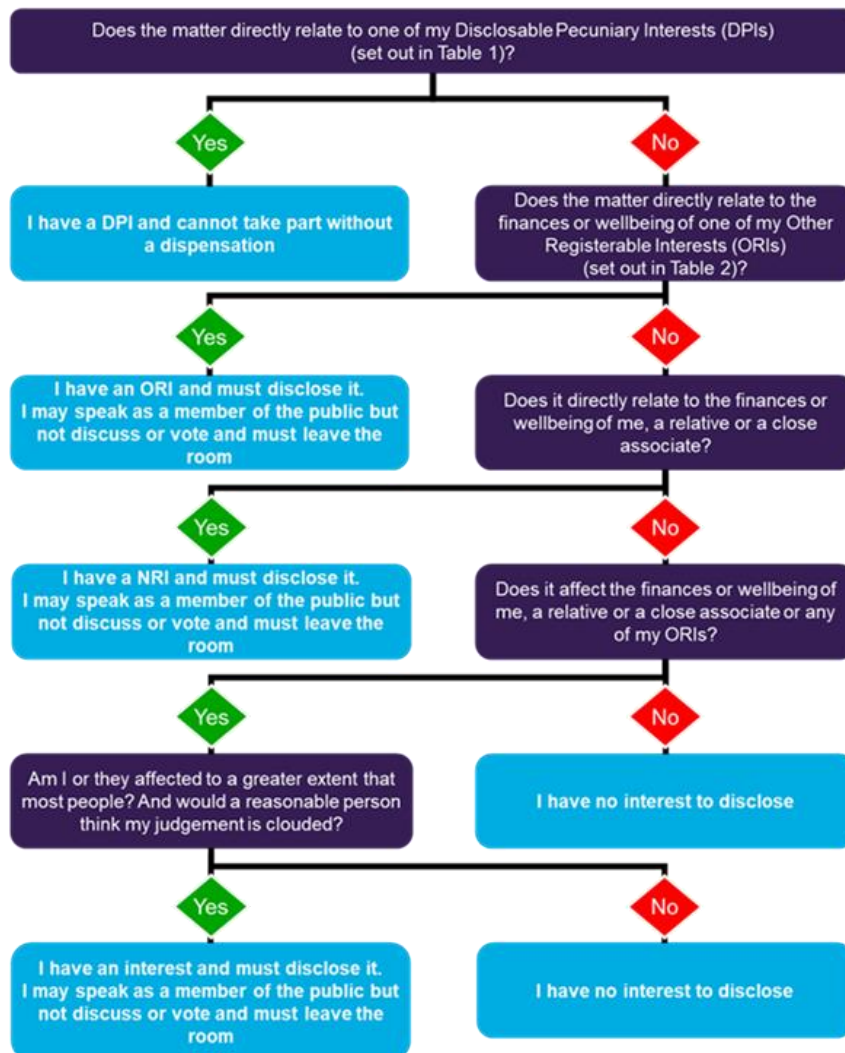


Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. Apologies	
To receive any apologies for absence from members of the Committee.	
2. Declarations of Interests	
Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance. Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.	
3. Welcome and introductions if necessary	
To welcome members of the Committee and make any introductions as necessary	
4. Opening reflection	
To receive a reflection	
5. Confirmation of Minutes	5 - 8
To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 18 June 2025.	
6. SACRE's Role in Supporting Cohesion and Calm Amid National Tensions linked to Planning for next conference (GP, DR, VS)	Verbal Report
To discuss SACRE's Role in Supporting Cohesion and Calm Amid National Tensions linked to Planning for next conference	
7. Update on checking R.E teachers list (VS)	Verbal Report
To receive an update on checking the R.E teachers list	
8. Update on reaching out to schools (DR, VS)	Verbal Report
To receive an update on reaching out to schools	
9. Action plan update (DR)	9 - 18
To receive an Action plan update and discuss the SACRE Annual Report 2024-5 as necessary	
10. Hub report	Verbal Report
To receive and discuss the Hub report	
11. AOB to be notified to Chair before the meeting	Verbal

To discuss AOB that has been notified to the Chair before the meeting

12. Dates of future meetings

Further meetings of SACRE will be held on:

- 11 March 2026
- 24 June 2026
- 11 November 2026 and
- 10 March 2027

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.

STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY, 18TH JUNE, 2025

Present: Vincent Saunders in the Chair

Councillors L Ford-Horne (Vice-Chair), R Lawton, S Hawksworth, D Kanamia, D Kenchington, P Thomson, J Kelly, N Coupe, E Culy, P Ruffle, K Barker, Cllr R Burton and Cllr M Le Poidevin

Apologies: C Jones and S Jones

33 Election of Chairman

RESOLVED that Vincent Saunders be elected Chairman of the Committee for 2025/26.

Voting: Unanimous

34 Election of a Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Burton be elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee for 2025/26 on a temporary basis.

35 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Claire Jones and Shelley Jones, who may be able to attend later.

36 Welcome and introductions

The newly elected Chair thanked the Committee for his election and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

37 Opening reflection (NC)

Nicola Coupe gave the opening reflection explaining her own personal Christian faith and love for science. Her work studying Biology and studying ferns, had cemented her belief in God, making her think of wonder and mystery in the World. Considering her upcoming retirement had been a step into the unknown – we are all pilgrims but God has something in mind. We do not know all precious things but there are always greater things, which are affected by our actions. Finished with a prayer for the Earth.

38 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2025, were agreed as a true and correct record. Actions: As the Committee had not seen the annual report, it was asked if it gone through the correct process. It was confirmed that it had and had been checked. A copy would be circulated.

39 Curriculum Review (DR)

The interim report recognised RE roles and considered if there were sufficient people to cover roles in secondary education. There was a recognised turnover, and this needed to be understood. There were national disparities between the RE curriculum. Consideration

should be made as to whether there were specific local needs to consider, which would not be concluded quickly. Autumn 2025 will see final report, date TBC.

It was agreed that support for schools, and meeting local needs, must be debated by all, including those who do not use all networks.

Action VS, GP and DR meet to discuss engagement and support that may be offered.

In response to a question it was advised that Central Government had not decided whether RE would be absorbed into the national curriculum. There was currently a disparity in provision between church and non-church schools. It was felt within the Committee that the message needed to come from the top, that RE is an academic subject, encouraging other life skills. SACRE would continue to monitor this.

40 Action Plan Update (DR and GP)

It was advised that the next newsletter would be published in September 25, and a request was made to supply any items to be included.

Action VS meet with to drill down to what we need to do, to support schools.

41 Filling Vacant SACRE positions

Action VS to scrutinise membership and reach out for more support in areas of need.

42 Hub report including review of BCP area involvement (Compliments and Concerns). (NC)

NC had built a group of teachers with suitable skills, which has gradually increased, two of whom are on this SACRE. EC would take over from NC, following her retirement and both had been working together to achieve a good handover period.

EC introduced herself, advising that she came from a primary education background, coming straight from the classroom environment. She was keen on increasing hubs working together, which was improving, planning to increase both the number of hubs and attendance and make them feel useful for their membership. There had been nine SEND schools at a hub meeting last month, who wished to meet with EC to further action.

43 AOB (to be notified to Chair before the meeting)

Vinny Saunders invited Josh Dubell to attend to speak, to discuss his business Solutions not Sides (SNS), who talk to 14 – 18-year-olds re Palestine and Israel, historic and current events. Young people hear sound bites from social media, which may be negative, but SNS take peace-builders into the classrooms to provide historical overview to both countries and what led them to promote peace now. They talk about conflict resolution. In the last 15 years SNS had not been to the south coast but over the last 18 months they realised this was a global issue which young people are interested in. Planning to come to BCP & Dorset in 2026. Believe this programme will help secondary students, to provide context. Helps young people to realise they have a useful voice. SNS framework: Non-violence; equality for all; reject hatred. There has been an increase of violence in UK following the conflict and this is not wanted by those from the countries. The work of SNS has been backed by the Minister of Education. Link to video and website shared.

44 Dates of future meetings

Action NH to circulate dates of future meetings by email.

VS gave thanks to the previous Chairs and NC, which this SACRE had benefited from greatly, due to all of their wealth of knowledge.

Duration of the meeting: 4.00 - 5.30 pm

Wednesday, 18th June, 2025

Chairman at the meeting on
Wednesday, 18 June 2025

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Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

Annual SACRE Report 2024-2025

(Sep 2024-Aug 2025)

Contents

- 1. Introduction & Overview**
- 2. Statutory Responsibilities in RE**
- 3. Statutory Responsibilities in Collective Worship**
- 4. Partnership and External Engagement**
- 5. SACRE arrangements**
- 6. Appendices**

1) Introduction and Overview

Chair's Reflections – Cllr. Richard Burton

The past year has been one of transition and renewed strategic focus for BCP SACRE. It was a privilege to serve as Chair throughout 2024–25, drawing on my background in education and leadership in local schools. As we begin the new academic year, I've handed over the role of Chair to Vincent Saunders, and I am pleased that Lynda Ford-Horne is continue supporting SACRE as Vice Chair. Vincent brings a wealth of experience from his role as an RE teacher at Winchelsea Special School and has already made a significant impact, particularly through his contributions to the development of our new Agreed Syllabus.

The SACRE Religious Education Adviser role has been recommissioned for the 2025–26 academic year, allowing us to review its impact and explore how it might evolve to offer more direct, school-based support. David Rees continues in this role and is working closely with Vincent and Georgie Pinder, our named Education Adviser at BCP Council, to strengthen the support available to RE teachers across our schools.

This work is more important than ever. We are seeing a troubling rise in religious hatred, both locally and nationally. Schools recognised as Schools of Sanctuary have, sadly, been targeted by far-right groups, and hate crimes continue to affect communities across England. SACRE remains firmly committed to helping schools foster inclusive, respectful environments through high-quality Religious Education and collective worship. Across the BCP area, there is a wealth of expertise and excellent practice in RE, and SACRE is determined to champion this work. By sharing and building on these strengths, we aim to further enhance the teaching of RE and ensure that all pupils benefit from a curriculum rooted in understanding, empathy, and social cohesion.

As SACRE enters this new phase of leadership and development, we remain focused on our statutory responsibilities, supporting educators, and engaging meaningfully with diverse faith and worldview communities. The year ahead presents valuable opportunities to build on our progress and respond proactively to the evolving needs of our schools and communities.

2. Statutory Responsibilities in RE

The new Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole was launched in January 2023 following a robust consultation process. Feedback from teachers was actively incorporated, and the syllabus was well received at the launch event. SACRE worked in close partnership with the local authority throughout its development, and support networks were established to aid schools during the initial implementation and embedding phase.

Throughout 2024–25, SACRE continued to monitor and support the teaching of Religious Education across the BCP area. The outgoing Chair, Lynda Ford-Horne, remained actively involved, regularly visiting schools to deliver sessions on Judaism. Other SACRE members also contributed by speaking in schools and representing a range of worldviews. SACRE benefits from teacher representatives across Key Stages 1–5 and from SEND settings, many of whom play a key role in facilitating teacher networks.

The hub lead meetings, coordinated by the Salisbury Diocese and covering the entire BCP area, were successfully established last year and have continued to provide valuable support. These meetings are open to all schools and have become an important part of the local RE infrastructure.

SACRE did not receive any reports of pupil withdrawals from RE during the year. While no schools were known to have received the RE Quality Mark (REQM) this year, SACRE remains committed to promoting the award. The RE Adviser, who is also a REQM assessor, regularly shares information about the award through the termly SACRE newsletter. With the recent refresh of the REQM website, the updated map will help SACRE identify and celebrate local schools that have achieved the award.

To further support RE teachers and leaders, SACRE continues to produce a termly newsletter compiled by the RE Adviser. These newsletters include updates on local and national events, CPD opportunities, new resources (particularly free ones), and reflections from key conferences and networks such as the NASACRE AGM, RE Hubs, SWSACRE Conference, and Strictly RE.

3: Statutory Responsibilities in Collective Worship

3.1: Monitoring Collective Worship and British Values

The named BCP Education Adviser continues to conduct desktop reviews of Ofsted and SIAMs reports, alongside on-site visits to schools. These visits include a review of school culture and ethos, encompassing acts of collective worship (CW) and the promotion of British values. This work is directly linked to the local authority's statutory responsibilities for Religious Education (RE) and collective worship.

To support schools, SACRE has actively engaged with local religion and worldview communities to provide appropriate speakers who can share lived experiences and lead meaningful reflections. SACRE members have also made themselves available to speak in schools upon request.

In addition, SACRE has produced a suite of materials to assist schools in delivering collective worship. These include:

- Suggested themes for assemblies and reflections
- A code of conduct for visitors
- Curriculum-linked resources

These materials will be made readily available to schools as a reminder of the support SACRE can offer.

3.2: Determinations

It has not been necessary to renew any determinations during this year. (A determination allows a school to provide daily collective worship that is not 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.) SACRE has not considered the Determination Process in recent years.

4: Partnership and External Engagement

BCP SACRE maintains active links with other SACREs, benefiting from the cross-membership of individuals who also serve on SACREs in neighbouring areas such as Wiltshire and Dorset. The SACRE Adviser has additionally collaborated with SACREs in the Pan-Berkshire region, fostering connections that support professional development and shared learning. These relationships have enabled the organisation of virtual CPD sessions and conferences, which continue to offer valuable opportunities for collaboration and dissemination of best practice, even as the immediate impact of the pandemic has subsided.

SACRE continues to prioritise its membership of NASACRE, with an annual budget allocation to support this affiliation. The SACRE Adviser endeavours to attend the NASACRE AGM and conference, although recent shifts back to in-person formats have presented logistical challenges. Nevertheless, materials and insights from these events are routinely shared with SACRE members at subsequent meetings to ensure continued alignment with national developments.

The SACRE Adviser, David Rees, plays a key role in maintaining SACRE's engagement with recognised RE organisations such as RE Online and RE Hubs. The outgoing Chair has also provided regular updates on initiatives from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and interfaith programmes such as *Many Faiths Living Better Together*. SACRE remains committed to expanding its network of contacts and encourages members to explore both local and national opportunities for collaboration.

SACRE has also supported work with the Schools of Sanctuary initiative. A particularly strong link was established through the review of Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School, which has now been awarded School of Sanctuary status. The SACRE Adviser was directly involved in this process, and the school's journey exemplifies how sanctuary values can be embedded across curriculum, ethos, and community engagement. This work highlights SACRE's commitment to promoting inclusive values and supporting schools in fostering environments of welcome and belonging.

In recognition of the importance of inclusion and representation, SACRE established *Diversity and Equality* as a standing agenda item several years ago. This has included inviting speakers from the local authority and external service providers to contribute to SACRE meetings, enriching discussions and informing future practice.

5: Local Involvement

BCP SACRE continues to explore ways to strengthen its engagement with local schools and educators. Recent discussions have focused on further utilising the expertise of religion and worldview representatives within SACRE to support teacher development through high-quality RE CPD. Local teacher conferences have regularly featured contributions from Muslim, Jewish, and Humanist representatives, offering valuable insights and lived experiences that enrich classroom practice. SACRE is committed to sustaining and expanding this approach, with the aim of identifying and involving additional representatives from a broader range of worldviews.

Plans are underway to host another teacher conference in February 2026, building on the success of the previous event which followed the launch of the new Agreed Syllabus. While the BCP area is characterised by relatively limited religious and cultural diversity, SACRE recognises the potential to broaden opportunities through collaboration with other SACREs and virtual engagement with members of religion and worldview communities known to SACRE members and local educators.

This strategic approach reflects SACRE's commitment to ensuring that all pupils receive a rich and inclusive RE curriculum, informed by authentic voices and diverse perspectives.

6: SACRE Arrangements

In the financial year beginning April 2024 SACRE was granted budget of £5000

BCP SACRE continues to be well supported by the local authority. David Rees serves as the SACRE Professional Adviser, bringing a wealth of experience through his membership of AREIAC and NATRE, and his previous role as editor of the RE Online website and newsletter. The Council's support is further strengthened by the involvement of Georgie Pinder, the named LA officer, whose contributions have been instrumental in maintaining effective communication and coordination.

SACRE benefits from strong working relationships across the Council, and lines of communication remain open and constructive. These partnerships ensure that SACRE is well-positioned to fulfil its statutory responsibilities and respond to emerging needs within the local education landscape.

All four membership groups are consistently represented at SACRE meetings, and there have been no issues with quoracy during the year. Efforts have been made to broaden representation, particularly among faith and worldview communities. While some progress has been achieved, SACRE remains committed to further outreach to fill remaining vacancies and ensure diverse perspectives are reflected in its work.

Committee A

Baha'i: Rob Lawton
Buddhist: Sali Knight
Free Church:
Hinduism: Bharati Joshi
Humanism Sally Hawksworth
Islam: Maaria Kanamia
Judaism: Lynda Ford-Horne
Church of Jesus Christ and the Latter-Day Saints: Deneen Kenchington
Quaker : Rosemary Browne
Roman Catholicism: Peter Thomson
Sikhi: Balwinder Kaur

Committee B

C of E Portsmouth - Jane Kelly
C of E Salisbury - Nicola Coupe
C of E Winchester - Paul Ruffle

Committee C

Karen Barker - Secondary
Claire Jones - Secondary
Trevor Willis - Secondary
SEND Vincent - Saunders
Shelley Jones - Primary

Committee D

Councillor Marion Le Poidevin
Councillor Richard Burton
Councillor Mike Cox

Co-Opted - PACE Dave Pegg
RE Adviser - David Rees

Appendix 1: Public Examination Results

To be released by the Department of Education in November 2025

Appendix 2: CPD Provided to Schools

1. The BCP Teachers conference was held in November 2024 and built on the success of the syllabus launch the previous January. The conference had inputs from local and regional speakers and always has a focus on teaching and learning, the worldviews approach and disciplinary lenses. It is hoped that there will now be an annual face to face RE leaders and teachers conference.
2. Schools were invited to the Creative and RE-Inspiring RE conference run through the Salisbury diocese in March 2025– this conference was cross phase and had workshops on many areas of current interest to RE leaders and teachers. This event is now a regular conference at this time of year and has proved very popular with BCP schools.

Appendix 3: Action Plan

BCP SACRE action plan 2024-2025							
Aim	Actions	Timescale s	People Responsibl e	Cost	Autumn 2024	Spring 2025	Summer 2025
A. CORE BUSINESS To be a supportive and proactive SACRE enjoying full and well- informed membership	1. Fill membersh ip vacancies	Ongoing	SACRE Chair SACRE Clerk		BCP SACRE is representative of the BCP area. However, this needs to be constantly monitored		
	2. SACRE members attend termly SACRE meetings (3 per year) and, when possible, teacher meetings and training events	Termly SACRE meetings: Autumn 2024 Spring 2025 Summer 2025	SACRE Chair/SACR E Adviser SACRE members SACRE Clerk	SACRE Adviser to prepare and attend x3 SACRE meetings a year SACRE Clerk to administer each meeting LA officers/ Adviser time	Weds 20 th November 4pm	Weds 12 th March 4.15pm	2 nd July 2025?
	3. Produce annual SACRE Report	Autumn Term 2024	SACRE Adviser and clerk with foreword by SACRE Chair	SACRE Adviser x1 day (includes draft and revisions)	New format – Draft this term	Completed brought to SACRE - Send to NASACRE by Feb 2025	
	4. Review the action plan at each meeting and discuss updates	At each SACRE meeting	SACRE Adviser and SACRE	SACRE Adviser time	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting
	5. Subscribe to NASACRE Representatio n at annual NASACRE conference &AGM -Attend	Ongoing	SACRE clerk SACRE Adviser & G Pinder	Subscriptio n £105 SW SACRE conference fee and	Subscriptio n rate £105	SW SACRE conferenc e March DR to attend feedback	NASACR E AGM

	other relevant and useful events		Adviser to find out and inform	<i>advisor time?</i> NASACRE Conference & AGM - SACRE Adviser time to attend NASACRE conference?		to network and SACRE	
	6. Review the Locally agreed syllabus and the 5-year cycle	syllabus launched Jan 2023 - embedding	SACRE	Extra funding usually allocated to allow proper consultation process	Update at each SACRE meeting	Update at each SACRE meeting	Update at each SACRE meeting
	7. Monitor and advise on Collective Worship	ongoing	SACRE	Dependant on the support offered	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting
<i>B. To support teachers of RE to continually improve RE learning in their schools.</i>	1. Collate and distribute a termly newsletter	Termly	SACRE Adviser – SACRE members to offer suggestions	Adviser time	Sent out Sept 2024	Jan 2025	April 2025
	2. Provide a RE teachers and leaders conference	Nov 20 th 2024 Merley House	SACRE in house (Adviser time)	Possible Adviser time - Speaker costs - Venue hire etc.	Nov 20 th 2024		
	3. Connect with RE leaders through networks	Ongoing	SACRE teacher reps with support (Hub leads)	T. Willis/S Jones (NC co-ordinating)	Hub networks to take priority		

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