



DIOCESAN SYNOD

REIGATE DEANERY SYNOD MOTION: KNIFE CRIME

1. Attached overleaf is a Reigate Deanery Synod paper and Motion which were debated and approved with an overwhelming majority and presented to Diocesan Synod for Debate, to be moved by Christopher Elliott (Reigate Deanery).
2. Following an amendment submitted by the Bishop of Croydon, which has also been fully endorsed by the proposer of the main motion, Christopher Elliott, the Synod will be asked to formally accept the proposed amendment, and then debate the motion - as amended.
3. The amendment proposed to clause 2 is as follows:

Replace

“Southwark Diocese to develop strategies to facilitate, resource and implement such engagement:”

with

“all Dioceses, working with the Mission and Public Affairs Council, to develop strategies to facilitate engagement and resources:”

The full motion to be debated would therefore be:

1. This Synod encourages each church therefore:
 - a. to support those who have been bereaved and those who are emotionally vulnerable as a result of gun and knife crime.
 - b. to recognise that our response to violent crime in our communities is a public health issue and that children involved, as perpetrators and victims, require a safeguarding and trauma informed response. Trauma affects the whole community and demands a whole community response. We look to churches to build relationships with external as well as other church organisations to offer this response.
 - c. to work with the police and others in providing pastoral care for those targeted as vulnerable through County Lines, through strategic intervention work across our parochial networks.

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2. This Synod therefore calls upon **“all Dioceses, working with the Mission and Public Affairs Council, to develop strategies to facilitate engagement and resources:”**
 - a. through support for our schools, especially within urban environments. We recognise the issue of excluded young people being at higher risk of involvement in serious youth violence, and we seek to support the reduction of exclusions in our schools. In addition, we recognise the role that church youth workers and other ministers play, we seek to prioritise services which support children and young people at risk.
 - b. by ensuring that The Diocesan website contains information concerning the occurrence of violent crime in the Diocese; online signposting for support and counselling for those affected; pointers as to how to respond if such violent crime takes place within the parish or deanery worked in conjunction with the police;
 - c. through providing training for clergy and lay leaders on understanding risk factors and identifying signs of vulnerability to county lines involvement including safeguarding responses within parishes.

Ruth Martin

Diocesan Secretary

March 2019

REIGATE DEANERY SYNOD Resolution to be proposed on 26th February 2019

This Synod recognises and affirms God's abundant gifts to all people and His desire for the flourishing of all in our communities, particularly those who experience poverty, inequality and violence. We call upon all in our churches to play their role, as members of civil society, in the reduction of violent crime within our communities.

We recognise that all people are made in the image of God, and that Jesus Christ's teaching on love and justice empowers Christians to transform communities, as led and enabled by the Holy Spirit. This means that we all have a part to play in the reduction of violent crime, following Jesus' command that we ought to love one another and, as our liturgy suggests, seek the common good.

We recognise that this is not just an issue facing London and the South East, but it is a national issue and its consequences are far reaching across England.

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 - a. to support those who have been bereaved and those who are emotionally vulnerable as a result of gun and knife crime.
 - b. to recognise that our response to violent crime in our communities is a public health issue and that children involved, as perpetrators and victims, require a safeguarding and trauma informed response. Trauma affects the whole community and demands a whole community response. We look to churches to build relationships with external as well as other church organisations to offer this response.
 - c. to work with the police and others in providing pastoral care for those targeted as vulnerable through County Lines, through strategic intervention work across our parochial networks.

2. This Synod therefore calls upon Southwark Diocese to develop strategies to facilitate, resource and implement such engagement:
 - a. through support for our schools, especially within urban environments. We recognise the issue of excluded young people being at higher risk of involvement in serious youth violence, and we seek to support the reduction of exclusions in our schools. In addition, we recognise the role that church youth workers and other ministers play, we seek to prioritise services which support children and young people at risk.
 - b. by ensuring that The Diocesan website contains information concerning the occurrence of violent crime in the Diocese; online signposting for support and counselling for those affected; pointers as to how to respond if such violent crime takes place within the parish or deanery worked in conjunction with the police;
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