

That this Synod

- a. welcome the intention of Her Majesty's Government to introduce a new mental health legislation designed to reflect the fact that most people with mental health problems live in the community and require a comprehensive response to their illness;
- b. request Her Majesty's Government to take careful note of the wide response to the draft Bill, including concerns about
 - i. those who lack capacity; and
 - ii. the proposed inclusion of people with learning disabilities who do not have an additional mental disorder within the ambit of compulsory treatment;
- c. and in particular to retain the positive elements of the Mental Health Act 1983 and call upon Her Majesty's Government to
- d.
 - i. revise the text of the draft Bill to take account of the many concerns expressed (including but not exclusively those listed above); and
 - ii. enquire that sufficient resources are made available for the implementation of any new legislation;
- e. further request Her Majesty's Government to provide a real alternative to prison for those with mental health illness, with particular reference to young offenders, and to extend the protection of the legislation for those who remain in prison with mental health needs;
- f. urge parishes and deaneries to develop their pastoral care of those with mental illness and their carers and welcome the decision to produce Promoting Mental Health: a Training Resource for Pastoral Care as a means of equipping them to do so; and
- g. commend the ministry of the mental health chaplains in promoting the well-being and needs of mental health users and their carers.