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Dear PCC Secretaries

We are writing to you to outline our plans within the Board of Education regarding establishing a council made up of young people from across the Diocese. In doing so we hope to gain your support in passing on this information and encouraging young people within your church families to apply to be part of this valuable opportunity.

Over the past year we in the Board of Education have been exploring how to create and establish a 'Diocesan Youth Council' (DYC). In consultation with young people in the Diocese we have put together an application form and criteria, as well as the 'terms of reference' for the functionality of the DYC.

As we write to you we are seeking 16 young people, in school years 9 to 13, from across the diocese who wish to:

- champion the voice of young people across the Diocese.
- raise awareness of youth culture and raise awareness in the Diocese of how this might be harnessed by churches.
- collate and discuss the key issues affecting young people across the Diocese
- act as an advisory body for the Board of Education on matters relating to youth work in churches
- act as an advisory body for the Diocese on new initiatives and their impact on young people in parishes
- support churches in creating youth accessible worship
- support churches in developing youth voice at parish level
- create and assess an approval system for churches similar to the Child Friendly Church award.
- ensure that the long-term sustainability of the council seeking to ensure a balance of membership from across the Diocese.

The members of the DYC will be able, through the Director of Education, input into the following bodies as appropriate: Bishop's Leadership Team, Bishop's Council, Board of Education, Diocesan Synod and Youth Committee.

The opportunities are not limited to being part of the DYC and presenting at other bodies. Members of the DYC (aged 16+) will have the opportunity to serve on:

- the Board of Education
- Youth Committee on which they will serve as Vice Chair of the committee.

There is a commitment to attend six meetings will be held throughout the year including one overnight residential meeting, additional meeting times may be required. Meetings will usually take place on a Monday evening from 6.30-8.30pm and will be held at different venues across the Diocese.

If you would like to know more about the NYC please contact [youth@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:youth@blackburn.anglican.org) or visit <http://www.bdeducation.org.uk/youth/youth-council> for more information.

I am writing to ask you to pass this information onto any young people who you believe may be interested in becoming a member of the NYC. Could you also highlight the NYC to any adults working with young people within your church who will be able to help identify those between the ages of 14 and 18 who may enjoy being able to contribute as a member of such a council?

Thank you so much for your time, and in advance for your support in helping us to create and establish a NYC that truly represents the young people in our churches across Blackburn Diocese.

Yours faithfully

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