

Wessex Synod Resolution

Provision of Public Access Defibrillators

Basic Information

Contact name and email address	Mrs Sue Brown: clerk@urcwessex.org.uk
Action required	
Draft resolution(s)	Resolution 30 General Assembly a) encourages Elders Meetings and/or Church Meetings to install 'public-access defibrillators' on an external wall of their Church buildings, wherever possible. b) encourages Synods to offer financial support where possible to help churches purchase and install these defibrillators. c) resolves that, if successful, this initiative be used to mount national and local press campaigns to promote the profile of our churches as safe, caring and compassionate communities.

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	
Main points	
Previous relevant documents	
Consultation has taken place with...	

Summary of Impact

Financial	
External (e.g. ecumenical)	

Wessex Synod Resolution: Provision of Public Access Defibrillators

- 1.1 When a person suffers sudden cardiac arrest, prompt action by someone nearby offers their only chance of survival. A 999 call for an ambulance and starting cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) immediately are essential. Most people who survive will also have needed a shock from a defibrillator to restore a normal heartbeat.
- 1.2 The earlier that shock is given, the better the person's chance of survival. Studies have shown that a shock given within three minutes of cardiac arrest provides the best chance of survival and that even one minute of further delay reduces that chance substantially.
- 1.3 For that reason, there is an increasing need for automated defibrillators to be available for use by members of the public. Referred to as 'public-access defibrillators', they are simple to use and can be used effectively and safely by people who have had no prior training. But in many communities the availability of such defibrillators is very limited
- 1.4 As part of our service to our communities, we propose that all United Reformed Churches are encouraged to install a public-access defibrillator on an external wall of their buildings. In so proposing, we are aware that some churches have already done this, some cannot because they meet in non-URC premises, and in some areas defibrillators have already been installed on an adjacent building. Even so, a very large number of URC buildings could still consider this.
- 1.5 Wessex Trust has agreed to provide grant funding to help congregations in Wessex Synod to purchase and install public-access defibrillators, and we would like to encourage other Synod Trusts to do likewise, if they are able.
- 1.6 The Wessex Synod feels that this initiative is also an opportunity for positive publicity.

General Assembly

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- c) **resolves that, if successful, this initiative be used to mount national and local press campaigns to promote the profile of our churches as safe, caring and compassionate communities.**