

Topic Area: Education & Young People

<i>What we sought to find out:</i>	Education & Young People
Education	<i>Are schools currently over or under capacity?</i>
	<i>Do they have the potential to grow?</i>
	<i>Is the area served adequately for further and higher education?</i>
	<i>What are the unmet needs for education facilities and services?</i>
Young People	<i>Do young people have the facilities that they need to meet and develop?</i>
	<i>Do young people feel safe?</i>
	<i>Are their particular young persons' issues and/or discontents?</i>
	<i>Is there a demand for more facilities and services from young people?</i>

Strategic Context

The relationship between physical planning and education was articulated in Cornwall Council's Core Strategy issue paper on Education and skills. *"The Core Strategy can encourage a good spatial relationship between the place of work and the place of education and training. Education and skills should be seen as a vital part of infrastructure as much as sites and premises are. The Core Strategy can identify the need for new schools and educational facilities and can contain policies for seeking developer contributions towards education infrastructure."*¹

A number of key messages and issues for the county were drawn out from the evidence review carried out in 2012 for the Core Strategy:

- *"Opportunities for education provision to be linked to housing and workspace provision, or as part of the provision of community buildings.*
- *Enable training and education to become more physically linked to employment and new technology to be accessible to all*
- *Link education facilities to key growth sector opportunities (micro businesses, growth sub/sectors etc)*
- *Consider the skill requirements for the 'traditional' economy*
- *Maintain investment in skills at a time when recession may make training an easy target for 'savings'*
- *Plan for new schools/PFI as part of planned growth*
- *An increased use of ICT, through a stronger knowledge based economy, can make for more efficient working practices, enable greater human resource flexibility and home working and reduce the need to travel.*
- *Prepare children and young people for the world of work*
- *Addressing the skills deficit and enabling the transfer of qualifications and skills between different sub/sectors and places can lead to business innovation which is a vital ingredient in raising their growth potential and contributes to the quality of life of businesses and communities. This is particularly the case for micro & small businesses where innovation is vital for business survival, prosperity and employment prospects.*
- *Ensure that there are enough skills locally to support growth in the right place*
- *Makes it possible for any school – primary, secondary or special – to become an academy. An academy receives state funding but is independent of local authority control, meaning it is free to run its own budget and curriculum."*

The 2012 Issue Paper concluded that the main spatial planning issue was:

"The Core Strategy should ensure that a suitable range of high quality education and training facilities are available in accessible locations and, where appropriate, linked to employment opportunities."

¹ Education & Skills Issue Paper, Core Strategy, Cornwall Council, Jan 2012

This generalised aspiration is echoed in the placed-based issues paper for Wadebridge and Padstow that was produced as part of the Core Strategy development, which makes only one reference to future provision for education:

“Issue for consideration: providing appropriate services and development which is related to the specific needs of the local community whether in terms of leisure and health care facilities, open space and parks, education and employment.”²

All this has resulted in a single general education policy in the **Cornwall Local Plan**:

Policy 5 Jobs and Skills: *“.....4. Provide education facilities that improve the training and skills base and encourage knowledge based businesses and creative industries associated with Cornwall’s colleges and the Combined Universities of Cornwall particularly where this enables graduate retention.”*

There are no specific education policies under PP10 in the new Cornwall Local Plan. There is however amongst the ‘saved policies’, Policy SAF10 from the **North Cornwall Local Plan 1999**, which states:

SAF10 Education, health and social services

“1. Proposals for education, health and social services will be permitted within or on the edge of the development boundaries of towns or main villages where:

(a) the scale of the facility is related to the needs of the locality; and

(b) they are conveniently accessible by both public and private transport and on foot from nearby residential areas.

2. Proposals to improve or extend existing education, health and social services facilities will be permitted on land adjoining existing sites.”

Most of the prevailing education strategy documents concentrate on high-level objectives and policy.

For instance The Children and Young Peoples’ Plan for Cornwall, a regularly reviewed annual plan, extends only to 2014 and sets the following objectives but no specific development or growth targets:

“CYPP1 - to provide good quality, consistent and multi-disciplinary practice in the help and protection we provide to children and young people

CYPP2 - to develop and deliver family centred and outcome focussed early help services that are responsive to need and achieve value for money through effective partnership working

CYPP3 - to ensure healthy pregnancy from conception to birth, improving emotional wellbeing and mental health, access and quality of services to children, young people and their families, reducing hospital attendances and admissions

CYPP4 - to enable children and young people to fulfil their academic potential and make informed choices about their futures by raising aspiration and enabling pathways into high quality opportunities in education, training and employment

CYPP5 - to develop a confident and competent workforce across the partnership”³

The **Sustainable Community Strategy** for Cornwall prepared by the Cornwall Strategic Partnership in 2008 emphasised the need for positive action for *“successful children and young people”*. It identified the following strategic issues: *“inequalities that act as barriers to some children and young people achieving their full potential; low level skills in the workforce; young people at risk of committing offences or being victims of crime; lack of engagement in physical and sports activity; lack of engagement in cultural and creative activity”*.⁴

² Cornwall LDF: Core Strategy Place-based Issues Paper: Wadebridge and Padstow Community Network Area, Cornwall Council, Jan 2012

³ Children and Young Peoples’ Plan for Cornwall, Cornwall Council, 2012

⁴ Sustainable Community Strategy, Cornwall Strategic Partnership, 2008

It set short-term outcomes to 2011

- *“Improved life chances for children in need, particularly but not exclusively, looked after children*
- *All young people engaged in education, training, or employment*
- *Improved standards in educational achievement*
- *Fewer young people offending”*

It is believed by Cornwall Council that the local education facilities are acceptable. The growth factors analysis by Cornwall Council in 2011 concluded:

- *“Education – capacity within existing schools in Padstow and Wadebridge is sufficient to meet the growth levels proposed*
- *Capacity for secondary school places in the area can be accommodated in the short to medium term at Wadebridge School – this position will need to be reviewed once more certainty on the scale and distribution of growth is achieved*
- *Post 16 education is also available from the Duchy College at Wadebridge”⁵*

The **Wadebridge and Padstow Infrastructure Delivery Plan** does however identify the following capital investment priorities for the education sector and categorises them as “*necessary*”:

- *“Short Stay School: replacement of North Cornwall SSS which is situated at Gaia with expensive rental and running costs. Must move before lease renewal (2011-15, £5,000,000)*
- *Nurture Unit: new provision required to support children with challenging behaviour in KS1 & 2 (by 2020, £200,000)*
- *Aiming High for Disabled Children Outdoor Play: new play facilities for disabled children in locality (2011-15, £50,000)*
- *Support department for Hearing Impaired: new provision as no facility currently supporting deaf children in locality (2011- 15, £40,000)*
- *Co-Location Hub and Spoke Facilities: co-location premises required to increase integrated working with partner agencies (by 2020, £1,200,000)”⁶*

Cornwall Council has a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient school places are available within the county for every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one. The Council must therefore ensure that additional places are provided where need is anticipated. In the short-term, town forecasts for projected reception intake to 2014 indicate pressure ranked in priority order. The first three in order are: Newquay, then Redruth, followed by Bude/Stratton. Bodmin is 7th on the list, **Wadebridge is 14th**.⁷

In 2011 The Education Department’s ‘Capital Strategy Team for Children Schools & Families’ carried out a strategic assessment of the impact of housing growth on Cornwall’s schools infrastructure⁸. This was based on the proposed area housing allocations for 2010-2030 in the draft Local Plan. It concluded that there was no additional infrastructure needs for the Wadebridge area as a result of 1,000 additional houses being developed over that period.

It is our understanding that local schools are operating within or under capacity and are projected to do so for the next few years. The Council’s projection of pupil numbers that could result from the Local Plan’s strategic housing allocations of up to 1,000 concludes that local schools have sufficient capacity and there are no particular infrastructure requirements to 2030⁹. We do not yet know whether the local school managers agree with this.

⁵ Growth Factors, Wadebridge and Padstow Community Network Area, Cornwall, Jan 12

⁶ Wadebridge and Padstow Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Cornwall Council, Dec 2012

⁷ Pupil Place Planning, Capital Strategy Team Children Schools & Families, Jul 2011

⁸ Pupil Place Planning, Capital Strategy Team Children Schools & Families, Jul 2011

⁹ Pupil Place Planning 2010-2030: a strategic assessment of the impact of housing growth on Cornwall’s schools infrastructure, Cornwall Council, 2011

Wadebridge Area Pupil Numbers - Actual & Projections ¹⁰								
		Current NOR within year group			ACTUAL	Projected Reception Intakes		
	PAN	NOR 2010	NOR 2011	NOR 2012	NOR 2013	NOR 2014	NOR 2015	NOR 2016
St Breock	30	26	30	32	32	23	24	23
Wadebridge Primary	60	52	56	56	42	48	48	48
primary total:	90	78	86	88	74	71	72	71
Wadebridge School	210	212	209	195	211	210	210	210
PAN = Pupil allocation numbers NOR = Numbers on roll								

Young People

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 introduced a new duty on local authorities to secure access for young people in their area to sufficient positive leisure-time activities.

The Act placed new responsibilities on the local authority to set out its ambition to:

- Secure access to sufficient youth work activities
- Ascertain young people's views on positive activities
- Publicise positive activities
- Consider alternative providers

Cornwall's response to this obligation is set out in the "Youth Offer" of 2008¹¹ which sets out ambition for a range of positive activities as part of the provision for young people in Cornwall. *"The objective is that all young people aged 13-19 (and some older individuals with particular needs) can be confident that should they choose, they can access the following provision in their local area:*

A safe, warm, well equipped place which provides:

- *opportunities to meet friends and socialise*
- *has high quality refreshment facilities*
- *has a programme of things to do which young people can help design*
- *is within a 30 minute bus journey from home*
- *has adults who are qualified in youth work and to provide activities and offer support*
- *is open at the times during the day, evening and weekend that the young people in the area have agreed is suitable*
- *has information about other positive activity opportunities in the area and the staff to provide the support in order to access them"*

Young people in Cornwall identified eight priorities as part of the 2011 Youth Manifesto¹². A 'Your Choice, Your Voice' survey with 268 young people responding in December 2012 identified Jobs and Employment, Our Futures and Our Opportunities and Education as the top three priorities within the eight set out below as part of the manifesto.

- Jobs and Employment
- Our Futures and Our Opportunities
- Health
- Education
- Transport
- Safe Communities
- Developing Our Social Lives
- Our Image

¹⁰ Children School & Families, Cornwall Council, Oct 2013

¹¹ The Youth Offer For Young People in Cornwall, Cornwall Children Young Peoples Partnership, Jul 2008

¹² Children and Young Peoples' Plan for Cornwall, Cornwall Council, 2012

We are indebted to the Chair of Wadebridge Youth Project for the following assessment of the local youth provision in 2013.

“During 2012 we were making contact with almost 200 youngsters (8-18 years) in the Wadebridge area. During 2013, the numbers of youngsters fell to just over 100, probably due to the limited resources and volunteers we have.

We understand that neither Town Council nor Cornwall Council have any legal responsibility for providing facilities for local youth, and certainly Cornwall Youth shows little interest in under 13's' Criticism continues to be aimed at the youth, but little effort is being made to ‘cure’ the problems. The Wadebridge Youth Project is a registered charity working as an outreach project of Wadebridge Churches Together, set up to provide safe and encouraging environments for local youth, so that they become a useful part of the community. We run 2 weekly secular youth clubs and a weekly school discussion group and are associated with other youth support and mentoring groups.

Finance has always restricted what we can offer, with recent fundraising achieving (£26,000) to buy a brand new 17-seater minibus and we have been getting grants of around £5,000 a year to employ a youth worker one day each week.

We feel what is needed in Wadebridge is a fulltime Youth Worker to help provide support on issues of self harming, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual promiscuity, life decisions, and community involvement to name just a few. The unfulfilled promise of a skate park, has lost the Town Council some credibility with the youth, so whatever future youth provision are talked about, these will be regarded with some doubt by the youth.

Originally the WYPAC on Southern Way was set up for all purposes as a Youth Centre, and whilst it does a great job as a home to Avalon Youth Theatre and the Cornwall Youth meetings, its vision as a Youth Centre seems to have got lost'

Wadebridge Youth Project would like to create a purpose built youth centre and have approached St Breock Church Council to use their land at the site of St Marys Church, Trevanion Road. We have also looked at The Children's Centre in case it became available; the land around by the proposed Skate Park behind Lidl (there seems to be a planning problem over safety in case of a ‘tsunami’!); and any community land from future supermarket development'.

This would allow a programme of youth involvement activities and training' whilst giving them an area they can relate to. All this requires funding, but certainly not as much as the money spent on 'policing' the consequences of not providing facilities.”¹³

Summary Conclusions

Clear facts:

- We have two excellent schools attracting pupils from a wide area
- Disabled youngsters are welcomed (and happy) in local school
- The Children’s Centre is well used (often turning people away from busy play sessions)
- Large numbers of children walk to school (some a long distance)
- Large proportion of students choose a University elsewhere

Five main problems/issues:

- Children moving to the area are often unable to get a place in a Wadebridge school
- Children at St. Breock pre-school not guaranteed a place in the school
- Concerns over increased traffic on routes to town
- No safe ‘drop in’ environment/skateboard park for teenagers
- Students travelling long distances daily or colleges elsewhere for agriculture courses

¹³ Letter to NP Group, Richard Hann, Chair Wadebridge Youth Project, 27 Nov 2013

Changes over the past ten years

- Increased population
- Fewer evening courses
- Many more young mums have English as a second language

Most needed

- More school places
- Purpose built Youth Centre
- Fully trained youth worker to deal with problems of drug abuse, sex issues etc.
- Local courses linked to local career prospects i.e. agriculture, tourism, retail

The message from local people

- Parents of young children delighted with provision of playgrounds and open spaces
- Concern over the limited number of school places
- Voluntary sector relied on for youth work – especially the under thirteen's
- Limited career opportunities

Development Opportunities

- Expansion of Wadebridge School on existing land
- Family homes
- Ensure all new housing developments are linked with existing footpaths to school.
- Recreational facilities/drop in centre for young people

Most interesting finding

- All those spoken to seemed happy/content with life in Wadebridge

Key Neighbourhood Planning Questions Going Forward:

- Are local education facilities and campuses fit for the future?
- What are the thresholds at which there is a need for new school facilities to be built or provided?
- Is there a need for more and better youth facilities?
- How can we maximise the routes, linkages and connections to and from education facilities?

What must we try to find more about?

- What the local schools are thinking and planning
- How the local education authority's plans might be affected by changing growth targets
- What young people would like to see provided for them
- What young people want to do for themselves