

Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan - Subgroup Report

Topic Group **Education & Youth Activities**

Meeting date 24.1.14

Attendees:

- **Alma Dunigan**
- **Head teacher of Ponteland Community High School**

Items discussed

- Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan
- What the Education & Youth Activities subgroup have achieved so far
- Why the original subgroup changed its focus from learning to youth activities
- Educational restraints
- Present Youth Activities
- A view to use school sites for activities out of school hours and during holiday periods.
- Pupil role numbers over the future 10 years and beyond
- Existing feeder system within the partnership
- Pupil places topped up by offering Newcastle pupils places
- Additional houses mean increased population numbers with more children to accommodate school places to.
- For every new build of 3 houses, 1 school place is generated
- The projected numbers of new build houses (850) in the NCC Core Strategy would show a need for a new school to be built to accommodate the extra pupil numbers in 10 years. If the numbers were reduced (450) there still would be a need for a new school but not until 18-20years hence.
- NCC would not fund a new middle school, 3 tiers is more expensive to maintain than 2 tier. The build, location costs, staffing and maintenance costs.
- Alternative view would be for a replacement High School between £10 million-£30 million.
- Could not have an Academy as the existing school is not failing or in special measures.
- Consider relocating the Leisure Centre and new High School to one new site
- Benefits: the school would not have to give floor space for sport facilities as it could use the Leisure Centre next door.
- The High School and Leisure Centre could give a greater community use throughout the day, weekend and school holidays.
- Transport issues and access onto the site from the roundabout at Callerton Lane

Decisions

1. To meet with Head teachers of partnership schools when appropriate

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Action agreed	Date by	Name
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		

Outstanding Issues to Follow up

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