



Produced in partnership with the Carnegie UK Trust /
Big Lottery Fund's Rural Action Research Programme

Children & Young People



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The Getting Connected Partnership

The Getting Connected Partnership is a multi-disciplinary group consisting of representatives from statutory and community/voluntary sector organisations with a remit or responsibility for the delivery of community planning. The partnership specifically focuses on community planning issues and sharing best practice work methods to empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision-making and the delivery of services.

Core members of the group include:

- Caradon District Council
- Carrick District Council
- Cornwall Association of Local Councils
- Cornwall County Council
- Cornwall Rural Community Council
- East Cornwall Council for Voluntary Service
- Kerrier District Council
- North Cornwall District Council
- Penwith Community Development Trust
- Penwith District Council
- Restormel Borough Council

The group also has a number of affiliated members which include Government Office for the South West, Market & Coastal Towns Association, Planning Aid, Interlink and Rural Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Partnership.

Please Note: For ease, the term Parish Plan will be used throughout this booklet to mean Parish, Town or Community Plans.

Introduction

This Booklet

This booklet is one of many in a series, produced by Cornwall Rural Community Council on behalf of the Getting Connected Partnership, that give information to help community groups create a Community/Parish Plan. This particular booklet focuses on the issues surrounding children and young people. The booklet should be used in conjunction with the 'Creating a Parish, Town or Community Plan' booklet (GC001), which gives information on the Parish Plan process. For further information, please contact Cornwall Rural Community Council (details on page 11).

Children & Young People

It is important to remember that children and young people have the same right for their views to be expressed as any other member of the community. Information can be gained from children and young people about their changing attitudes and needs, their views on their likes and dislikes about the Parish and barriers to accessing services. Working with young people to explore the community in which they live may uncover new problems and challenges which can be addressed immediately, rather than being considered once a Plan has been written.

Involving young people can bring a fresh perspective and new ideas regarding ways of tackling issues within a parish. Their involvement in consultation process (and development of any subsequent youth projects) also means that projects can be designed based on actual rather than presumed needs, which should increase the sustainability of resulting projects. Such involvement should give young people the chance to gain ownership of projects and feel a valued member of the community.

This booklet aims to highlight some of the key considerations regarding young people that need to be taken into account when undertaking a Parish Plan.



Issues To Consider

There are a number of youth issues that need to be considered when beginning work on a Parish Plan -

Activities & Clubs

Are there activities and clubs in the parish that suit young people's needs?

School

Involving the school in the Parish Plan process is not only a good way to get young people interested in the consultation, but also teachers and parents (and other family members).

Environment

Environmental projects are a good way to get young people interested in their surrounding environment.

Transport & Access

Young people in isolated areas can find it particularly difficult to access education, services, facilities, activities and friends etc.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Are there problems of anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the parish? What could be done to combat this?

Facilities & Services

Are there appropriate facilities within the community that are used by young people?

Health & Wellbeing

Would young people benefit from a mobile youth outreach centre?

Safety

Do young people feel safe in the community? Are there safe designated places for them to play?

Employment

Are young people having to move out of the area to find employment?

Housing

Are there problems with young people having to move away due to lack of affordable housing?

Pre-school

Are there sufficient pre-school facilities accessible to residents in the parish?

Play

Are there freely accessible play facilities and play activity services for 0-19 year olds in the local area?





Consultation

Children and young people are a diverse group to consult, with age being a crucial factor in determining how best to engage. Some age groups prove easier to consult with than others. Below are some of the key considerations that you will need to think about and discuss throughout the consultation process.



Benefits of Involving children & young people

There are a number of benefits of involving children and young people in consultation and projects, both to young people and to the wider community -

- > **Skills, confidence and self-esteem** - Young people can build on existing skills and develop new ones, increasing confidence and self-esteem.
- > **Influencing local issues** - Young people may better understand local issues and how to influence and make a difference.
- > **Better services** - Young people may benefit from new and better services that are more responsive to their needs.
- > **The wider community** - There are also benefits to the wider community including fostering a more vibrant local democracy through the active involvement of children and young people, promoting community cohesion through the inclusion of young people in local decision making and providing an empowering environment that raises aspirations among both young people and the wider community.



Engaging with different age groups

It is important to consider how best to consult with different age groups, as a young persons ability and/or desire to get involved with consultation tends to vary greatly with age. For example, younger children (ie. under 10s) often prove a fairly easy group to consult with, and respond well to simple consultation methods such as community planning events (see page 6) and drawing and painting exercises (see page 7) , which are particularly useful if trying to consult young children who may be too young to be able to fill out a questionnaire. Links here can be made with local Primary schools and often it is possible, with an agreement from the school, to undertake consultation within school hours.

11 - 16s may prove a more challenging group to work with. Again it may be possible to link consultation in with a school or alternatively a local youth group. Appropriate methods of consultation may include consultation through a youth questionnaire (see page 4), discussion groups (see page 7), creative arts (see page 7) and sport (see page 8). 16 - 19s can may be an even more difficult group to target and consultation may need additional thought/lateral ways of approach, 19 - 24 can be similarly difficult depending on how included they feel in their own community. This may be dependent on their employment status, ability to drive/access to a vehicle, level of education etc. In some cases it may be necessary to encourage young people to design their own ways of consulting rather than it being done by older age groups.



How to involve children & young people

To involve children and young people successfully, it is advised to consider the following -

- > Think of new ways to approach them.
- > Do not limit them by setting parameters, develop a discussion, listen openly and respond honestly.
- > Look at ways of consulting that are exciting and challenging.
- > Recognise the skills they have.
- > Realise young people's needs change as they are developing.
- > Consult in an environment where they feel safe and not intimidated, using adults young people already have a rapport with (eg. a local youth group).
- > If inviting them along to a meeting, it may be better to invite them to attend a particular part of it, therefore not leaving them to sit through the entire agenda, which may not be of interest to them.

Once young people have participated in an event and find their contribution is valued, it is likely that they will be keen to continue being involved.



Questionnaires

If consulting using a household questionnaire for a Parish Plan, it is worth considering either including a specific youth section within the questionnaire, or producing a separate youth questionnaire. If a separate youth questionnaire is produced, it will then need to be decided whether it is distributed with the household questionnaire, or whether it would be more effective to distribute it another way (eg. through schools, youth clubs, local groups etc.). Thought

also needs to be given to incentives that could encourage young people to fill in and return the questionnaire (eg. a free prize draw).

It is important that any questions which are included, are written appropriately, so that they can be easily understood by the age range that is being targeted. Involving young people in the formulation of the questionnaire is advisable, as it should help ensure that the questions are relevant to young people, as well as increasing their interest and participation in the Parish Plan process.

Here are a list of some of the questions that have been asked in youth questionnaires-

- > How old are you?
- > What school do you go to?
- > What do you like most about the parish?
- > What do you like least about the parish?
- > What activities do you take part in?
- > Where do you go to take part in these activities?
- > Are there any activities you would like to do if they were available in the parish?
- > Do you feel the park facilities are adequate?
- > If not, how would you improve them?
- > Would you like to see the tarmac area fenced off at the playing field?
- > Would you like to see an astro turf service on the playing field?
- > Are you happy that cars occasionally park on the playing field?
- > Would you attend a youth club?
- > Would you use an internet café if one was set up in the parish?
- > Would you use a skateboard park if one was provided in the parish?
- > If Yes, where would you like the skateboard park situated?
- > Would you use the following facilities? (eg. tennis courts, basket ball court, play equipment etc.)
- > Would a well lit area for young people to congregate be useful?
- > If Yes, where would you like the lit area to be?

Young people should also be afforded the opportunity to give their views on other aspects of the parish, for example -

- > Do you think the speed of cars through the village should be reduced?
- > How often do you use the local bus service?
- > Are there any areas of land that you think should be protected?
- > Have you any additional comments to make?

These are just some ideas of questions that could be asked. It is also a good idea to look at examples of other parish's questionnaires to get further ideas of questions to include. Involving young people in the production of the questionnaire will help ensure that relevant questions are asked and unnecessary questions left out. It is also advisable to seek input from any other potential partners such as local youth groups/forums, district council youth/sports/recreation officers, the Cornwall County Council Youth Service and Young People Cornwall.

Remember, a questionnaire is just one of the ways to consult with young people. Ideally other methods of consultation should be employed in addition to a questionnaire, to ensure that as many young people as possible have the opportunity to have their say. The Parish Plan steering group may indeed decide that a questionnaire would not be the most appropriate way to engage the youth of the Parish and instead opt purely to undertake alternative forms of consultation.



Community Planning Events

Community Planning Events are a great way to consult with young people. The events offer a hands on approach to consultation and often revolve around a 3D map of a parish, along with a wide selection of suggestion/issue cards that people can place on the map in the location of their choice. For example, a child may feel that there is need for additional play facilities in the Parish and therefore would place an 'additional play facilities' suggestion card on the location where they would like to see them constructed. Parishes often try and link in with the local primary school for these events, with local school children actually producing the map of the Parish themselves as part of the citizenship section of the schools curriculum. Involving children in this way increases their interest in the Parish Plan Process and should mean that they will be keen to attend the consultation event to see the map they have made. The children's involvement also tends to have the positive effect of encouraging the whole family to attend the event and get more involved in the consultation. For more information on running a Community Planning Event please refer to the 'Creating a Parish, Town or Community Plan' booklet (GC001).



Discussion groups

Discussion groups can be a valuable way to allow young people to voice their opinions. It is important to give thought to how/where to undertake such an exercise. For example, such consultation could be undertaken in conjunction with with local interest groups (eg. Scouts, Guides, Youth Forums) or by working with local schools.



Consultation through creative arts

Engaging young people through creative arts has proved, in many cases, to be very successful. One of the most popular methods of consultation is using digital media/film. Here young people are encouraged to go out into the community with video cameras and film their views about the place in which they live. This could include things they like about the area, things they would like to change to improve the place and what they feel their needs are (facilities, services, support etc.). Information gained from these films can then be fed into a Parish Plan. Such consultation relies on being able to access appropriate equipment and expertise and so it is worth investigating whether there is anyone in the community that would be able to help out with such a project. There are also a number of organisations, currently working throughout Cornwall on community digital media projects, that are able to provide the appropriate equipment, skills and expertise to enable young people make and edit a film, although it is likely that funding will be needed to acquire such assistance.

Other consultation methods could include photography projects (where young people are asked to take pictures of areas in the village), painting exercises, poetry, rap, drama, writing and music. All of these methods offer interesting and exciting opportunities to engage with young people. Methods such as painting and drawing exercises are particularly useful if wanting to consult with young children, giving them the opportunity to express there ideas and views in ways that are fun and easy to get involved in. Such methods allow those who may otherwise be excluded from the consultation (eg. a young child would be unable to fill out a questionnaire) have valuable input into a Parish Plan.

It is important however to remember that if doing such consultation, the results need to be displayed or written up in a way that will be able to feed into the Parish Plan. For example, if using digital media, a DVD of the consultation could be included with the Parish Plan, along with a summary of the key findings being included in the youth section of the Plan, with relevant aims and actions being suggested to deal with the issues highlighted. Similarly, if undertaking an art or photographic project, some of the resulting pictures could be included within the Plan, with explanations displayed beside then giving information regarding the issues highlighted. Young people could also be encouraged to feedback their views to the wider community through producing an article for a local news letter or website, or having their own stand at a community consultation event.



Consultation through sport

Sport activities are another way to access young people and consult with them about their needs. For example, holding a skate boarding day for young people and working a consultation aspect into the event, could be a good way of giving young people a chance to have there say about their skate/sport requirements (eg. If there is a need for a skateboard ramp, if so which type etc.), while also affording the opportunity to express their more general needs (eg. health and wellbeing, access to youth services etc.). It is important to make sure though that sporting activities do not over shadow the consultation elements of the day and that young people are encouraged to get involved and have their say.



Sustainability

Sustainability needs to underpin any actions suggested within the Plan. The concept of sustainability encompasses environmental, social and economic issues, and is often defined as 'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. Key sustainable considerations regarding youth issues include:

- > **Participation:** It is important to increase young people's participation in sustainable issues and to debate the key social, environmental and economic challenges that face the place in which they live. Parish Planning

offers an ideal opportunity to give young people a chance to help shape a vision from their local area. Getting young people's participation and involvement throughout the Parish Plan Process should also mean that the Plan is more sustainable, as it takes into consideration the needs of the future generation and gives them ownership of the Plan and its resulting projects.

- > **Local action:** Parish Planning should encourage young people to become informed and active citizens, both locally and globally, by promoting ways they can make a difference in local decisions and through local action on international issues like poverty, development and climate change.
- > **Engaging the socially excluded:** Promoting popular local cultural and environmental activities (eg. local festivals, recycling initiatives, tree planting, creating a nature reserve etc.) when creating and implementing a Parish Plan are good ways to engage socially excluded youth, with a view of then raising awareness about other opportunities for healthy lifestyles, community safety, education and skills.
- > **Sustainable lifestyles:** It is important to get young people to think about how their lifestyle can impact on the environment. Parish Planning could offer an opportunity to encourage take-up of local educational, health, transport and environmental opportunities and change behaviour to more sustainable lifestyles.



Carnegie UK Trust / Big Lottery Fund - Rural Action Research Programme

- Community initiative, run in Cornwall by Cornwall Rural Community Council, encouraging communities to actively involve children and young people in community planning, providing resources and training to groups, improving links to other strategies and planning processes, and researching and disseminating best practice.

Children's Centres - Children's Centres are part of a national Government backed programme to give more opportunities and better support to children. Children's Centres work with other organisations to make sure that young children and families are able to access services locally. See also 'Extended Schools'.

Cornwall Children's and Young People Partnership - A Partnership committed to improving services and outcomes for children and young people.

Cornwall Children, Young People and Families Portfolio Plan 2006-2009

- A Plan aiming to help make a difference to the lives of Cornwall's children, young people and their families. Amongst the many functions of the portfolio are child protection and safeguarding, support for vulnerable children in need, looking after children and providing aftercare support, the provision of adoptive and foster placements and residential care and school improvement.

Cornwall County Council Portfolio Holder For Young People - A county wide advocate for children, young people and their families.

Cornwall County Council Children, Young People & Family Services

- County wide service aiming to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Cornwall through the provision of joined-up pre-school, education, youth services, family support and social care.

Cornwall County Council Youth Service - County wide service that provides personal development opportunities for young people, who are predominantly in the 13-19 age range, to assist them in developing into adults.

Cornwall County Playing Fields Association (CCPFAs) - Association that supports the work of Fields in Trust (FIT) as well as providing additional

services such as field management, planning, grants and loans and active support for local projects.

Cornwall Play Strategies - The County Council has set up a Play Strategy Group, involving the district/borough councils and key voluntary sector representatives who are working towards devising a Cornwall Play Strategy. For more information contact your local district/borough council.

Cornwall Rural Community Council's Social Inclusion Service - Service that provides help and support to socially excluded groups and individuals. The service has a particular focus on young people.

Cornwall Young Carers Project (CYCP)- A service of Cornwall Rural Community Council that works to ensure that young people who have a caring role (for a parent or grandparent who suffers from a long term illness, disability or have a dependency on alcohol or drugs) have quality time to enjoy leisure activities, that schools are sensitive to the issues that face them, and all service providers are aware of problems that occur for these young people on a daily basis.

Cornwall Youth Work Partnership - A County wide Partnership founded as a working alliance of service providers aiming to focus and facilitate the development of youth work with young people aged 13 – 19 and to improve the quality and range of services available.

Connexions Cornwall and Devon - A company committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

District/Borough Play Strategies - Strategies being developed by all district/ borough council's in Cornwall as part of the Cornwall Play Strategy. See also 'Cornwall Play Strategy'.

Every Child Matters - A government initiative aimed at improving the well-being of children and young people from birth to age 19.

Extended Schools - Extended Schools are part of a national Government backed programme to give more opportunities and better support to children.

They will offer child care, out of school activities, parenting support, learning and study support, outside of school hours, specialist support services and community use.

FATA HE - An organisation established to redress social and economic inequalities relating to Black and Minority Ethnic (B&ME) individuals, families and groups.

Fields in Trust - Independent UK wide organisation dedicated to protecting and improving outdoor sports and play spaces and facilities. Formerly known as the National Playing Fields Association. See also Cornwall County Playing Fields Association.

Fusion - Part of Young People Cornwall, Fusion provide an advocacy, confidential advice, information and guidance service to children , young people and adults from the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community.

Hear Our Voice - Organisation providing individual and group support to young people (aged 11-25 years) with mental health issues.

M - MAD - A Multi-Media Arts Documentation Community Interest Company, based in Cornwall, that use digital media and the creative arts as a tool for community development.

National Youth Agency - An agency that supports those involved in young people's personal and social development and works to enable all young people to fulfil their potential.

Participation Works - An online gateway, funded by the DfES, designed to improve the way practitioners, organisations, policy makers and young people access and share information about involving children and young people in decision making.

Playwork Partnerships - A networking organisation promoting the importance of play and playwork and increasing the learning opportunities for playworkers.

Prince's Trust - A charity dedicated to helping young people overcome barriers and realise their potential through practical support including training, mentoring and financial assistance.

Skills Active – Play Workers - Training information and services for play workers and employers.

Young People Cornwall - County wide organisation that promotes the interests and provides support to vulnerable young people.

Young People Too (YP2) - A service of Cornwall Rural Community Council designed to motivate young people in the Clay area, concentrating on the 14 - 16 year old age group, and based on a voucher scheme. The project was developed from research into the attitudes and needs of young people in Cornwall and resulted in a partnership between three sponsoring agencies.



Further Information

Below is a list of useful contacts -

Caradon District Council - Regeneration Officers

Tel: 01579 341000 Email: postroom@caradon.gov.uk

Website: www.caradon.gov.uk

Carnegie UK / Big Lottery Fund - Rural Action Research Programme

Tel: 01726 821964 Email: celine.elliott@cornwallrcc.co.uk

Carrick District Council - Regeneration Officers

Tel: 01872 224428 Email: regeneration@carrick.gov.uk

Website: www.carrick.gov.uk

Connexions Cornwall and Devon -

Tel: 0800 9755111 Email: To email visit www.connexions-direct.com

Website: www.connexions-cd.org.uk

Cornwall County Council - Youth Service

Tel: 01872 322000 Email: enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk

Website: www.cornwall.gov.uk

Cornwall Playing Fields Association -

Tel: 01209 614950 Email: sharon.davey@cornwallrcc.co.uk

Cornwall Young Carers Project (CYCP) -

Tel: 01209 614955 Email : dawn.maddern@cornwallrcc.co.uk

Website: www.cornwallyoungcarers.co.uk

CYPF Directory (Services for Children, Young People and Families) -

Tel: 01872 322000 Email: enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk

Web: <http://cornwall.childrensservicedirectory.org.uk>

Every Child Matters -

Website: www.everychildmatters.gov.uk

Hear Our Voice -

Tel: 01872 261989 Email: office@hov.org.uk

Kerrier District Council - Regeneration Officers

Tel: 01209 614000 Email: customer.services@kerrier.gov.uk
Website: www.kerrier.gov.uk

National Youth Agency -

Tel: 0116 242 7350 Email: dutydesk@nya.org.uk
Website: www.nya.org.uk

North Cornwall District Council - Regeneration Officers

Tel: 01208 893333 Website: www.ncdc.gov.uk

Participation Works -

Website: www.participationworks.org.uk

Penwith District Council - Regeneration Officers

Tel: 01736 362341 Email: admin@penwith.gov.uk
Website: www.penwith.gov.uk

Play England SW - Jane Hembrow, Play England development officer for Cornwall as well as Devon

Playwork Partnerships -

Tel: 01242 714601 Email: eam@playwork.co.uk

Restormel Borough Council - Regeneration Officers

Tel: 01726 223300 Email: rbc@restormel.gov.uk
Website: www.restormel.gov.uk

Rural Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Partnership -

Tel: 01872 322860 Email: rcp@cornwallenterprise.co.uk
Website: www.ruralcornwall.co.uk

Young People Cornwall -

Tel: 01872 222 447

Young People Too (YP2) -

Tel: 01726 821946 Email: yp2@cornwallrcc.co.uk
Website: www.yp2clay.ik.com

For more information about this booklet and the other booklets available contact Cornwall Rural Community Council -

Community Planning Team based in the Camborne office - Tel: 01209 614950
Email: sharon.davey@cornwallrcc.co.uk Website: www.cornwallinteract.org.uk

Please Note: The information in this booklet is correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing. While every care has been taken during the completion of this booklet, Cornwall Rural Community Council / the Getting Connected Partnership cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies. Should you notice any inaccuracies, or if you have any queries, please contact Cornwall Rural Community Council on 01209 614950 or email sharon.davey@cornwallrcc.co.uk.

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