



Relocation of Torbay School to MyPlace Parkfield

Torbay Council Statement of Intent

In July 2016 the Council approved the proposal to relocate Torbay School from its current location at Torquay Road, Paignton, to MyPlace Parkfield.

Torbay School is a 60 place special school for secondary aged pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. The current site is small and landlocked with limited external area. The school is tightly bound by residential properties and has significant difficulties in managing and meeting pupils needs within that environment. There are no specialist vocational or science spaces and only a small indoor sports facility. All of which has a detrimental impact on opportunities for teaching and learning.

In considering possible sites for relocation, the Council reviewed and discounted 14 alternative sites before identifying MyPlace Parkfield as the most viable site, large enough and also affordable. The Council had been considering the future of the MyPlace facility as it is currently underused with questions about longer term sustainability because of the Youth Service's diminishing revenue budget. Presently it is not meeting the requirements of the original grant funding as use and access to parts of the facility are restricted to single user groups and is having to be subsidised by adult groups during the day.

The MyPlace site is approximately 9 acres in total and in 2011 it was developed as a purpose built youth facility with a sports hall which can be turned into a theatre or music venue, an indoor climbing wall, an international standard BMX track and a skate park.

At present, the skate park and the BMX track are well used but the Sports Hall is leased to a single occupier. The climbing wall is closed because of the prohibitive cost of trained staff and insurance.

The proposal is for Torbay school to sit alongside what is already there allowing its young people sole access to the building based facilities during school hours and supervised, scheduled activities on the external facilities on the site. A dedicated space would then be available for the Youth Service and other Community Groups to use outside of school hours i.e. evenings, weekends and during school holidays.

The Council will work in partnership with the school and the Youth Service to ensure that the MyPlace site meets the needs of both services. The Council is committed to providing the following outcomes:

- The school will have new accommodation that will be made available to the Youth Service and other Community Groups outside of school hours, including a catering facility linked to the Sports Hall and vocational spaces including motor vehicle, construction and science.
- The Skate Park will continue to have full public access as it has now.
- The BMX track will continue to be operated by the BMX Club as it is now with continued support for their increasing number of events.
- There will be continued public access through the site as there is now.

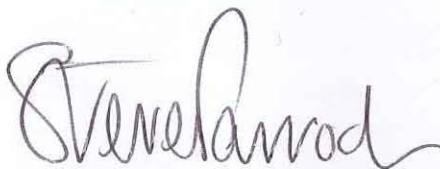
- The Climbing Wall is currently only used for special events. The proposal provides the opportunity for some certainty of use that will carry over into out of hours. The school will use during school hours and are hoping to have a trained member of staff available for out of hours use as well.
- The Sports Hall is currently leased to South Devon Gym Club only. The proposal provides the opportunity for the sports hall to be fully utilised in the day by the school and out of hours including all the events that it is designed to accommodate including basketball, badminton, performances, football, dining, and community use.
- The Youth Service/Trust will have a dedicated space which will be available during the construction period. This will have a new external access door to provide an identity for Youth that is separate to the school. This will continue to be a dedicated space for the Youth Service following the relocation of the school.

MyPlace is a fantastic local facility which has yet to realise its potential and is unlikely to do so without the changes proposed. As a facility for young people currently it is mostly used outside of school hours. By having Torbay school there alongside youth activities, the Council is seeking to maximise the potential of the site and ensure that it remains sustainable. The proposals aim to provide a sustainable solution to ongoing youth provision at the site alongside the educational activity.


The school have issued a mission statement setting out their commitment to working in partnership with Torbay Council and the Youth Trust.

Appendix A – Elemental breakdown of spaces at MyPlace showing existing and proposed use
Appendix B – Catch 22 / Torbay School Mission Statement

Signed and dated:



Chief Executive



Director of Children's
Services



Lead Member for
Children's Services

1.2.2017