

Report to Saltash Town Council - Cllr Lennox-Boyd May 2024

1. Families and Children

The Core/Groundworks Chris Barber Pilot of Alternative Education Provision

The new programme launched in February as a collaboration between Groundworks and The Core has been awarded Shared Prosperity Funding from the Good Growth Programme.

Groundwork South was awarded £469,645 for the Saltash Community Connectivity Project - a person centred approach to supporting young people age 13+ years who are not attending school or post 16 education or those electively home educated.

They offer accredited learning packages including Maths, English and ICT.

The programme started in February and there is already a waiting list for places. The only other outlet delivering this programme is Picquet Barracks in Plymouth and they have a substantial waiting list.

The current cohort travel from as far away as Liskeard and Landrake.

Chris Barber delivers the project on behalf of Groundwork South alongside Maxine Naismith.

School Attendance

Cornwall is above the national average in terms of attendance recorded as severely absent at 4.1 percent compared to 3.4 per cent nationally. Schools in Cornwall were also below the national average for persistent absence.

Secondary school pupils who have been eligible for free school meals in the last six years had absence rates almost double those of pupils who had not been eligible. 15.7 per cent compared to 8.4 per cent total absence in Cornwall. This was above the national average at 14 per cent for free school meals compared to 7.1 per cent for non-free school meals.

De-registration of children from schools across the county remains high - 245 children left school for elective home education in the first seven weeks of the 2023 Autumn term. Reasons for elective home education reported by parents - philosophical or preferential reasons, mental health and dissatisfaction with the school.

Reports that SEND needs are not being met whether formally diagnosed or not.

Integrated Education Team

CC integrated education team has the following priorities:

- to support children back into the school they are enrolled in
- to support schools and children to identify barriers to attendance
- to support families with signposting to relevant support to prevent children becoming elective home educated

Also offers a 4-6 week intensive school package where appropriate to identify support needed and strategies to remove barriers. Lessons and other services such as virtual school, care and SEND.

2. Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Cllr Lennox-Boyd has been appointed Governor at Cornwall NHS Foundation Trust. NHS Foundation Trust governors are the direct representatives of local communities. They challenge the board of directors and hold the non- executive directors to account for the performance of the board.

NHS Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust provides community and hospital-based physical, mental health, dementia, children's and learning disability services for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

3. Planning

Lithium Planning visits

Cornwall is leading the way in lithium

Planning site visit to two mineral processing sites at Trelith, St Dennis (Cornish Lithium) and North Goonbarrow, Stenalees (Imerys British Lithium)

Cornish Lithium started operations in 2018/19 at the Trelavour Downs china clay pit as a priority site for development. Lithium is proposed to be extracted from Trelavour ore to produce battery grade lithium hydroxide and operations to start in 2026.

Visited their demonstrator plant and other facilities.

Imerys British Lithium formed as joint venture in June 2023 has been undertaking test drilling operations since 2019. The only integrated lithium pilot plant in Europe is at Goonbarrow. Proposals are to upscale the operation by building the world's first integrated lithium quarry and production plant on land previously used for clay extraction.

Currently the UK has no domestic supply of lithium.

4. Safer Saltash

No meetings scheduled

No meeting has been held since March.

Cornwall Housing

June 4 is a Babis Farm and Grenfell Avenue estate walk with Cornwall Housing officers and Cllr Frank.

Saltash Secondary School

The school had an Ofsted monitoring visit in March and is pleased to announce they have been awarded the highest possible outcome for a visit of this type. The school has said they will continue our work to improve the school going forward. The full Ofsted letter can be read here: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50246768>