



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Position Paper Ten

Education, Health and Community

October 2015

Education, Health and Community Provision across Fermanagh & Omagh

Purpose: To provide the Council with an overview of the current education, health and community services in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Area and to consider any future land use needs up to 2030.

Content: The paper provides information on:-

- (i) An overview of the policy context and the organisations responsible for education, health and community services/facilities.
- (ii) A summary of existing provision of education, health and community facilities. This will include current enrolment figures across the various education sectors.
- (iii) An outline of future proposals for education, health and community facilities and implications for the Plan.

Recommendation: **That Council notes the content of the paper and considers how proposals for education, health and community facilities should be accommodated in the Plan.**

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This paper is one in a series of position papers that will inform the Fermanagh and Omagh Council in the preparation of the new local development plan. The purpose of this paper is to inform Council of how education, health and community service needs will be addressed over the plan period to 2030. It provides an overview of the policy context and organisations responsible for delivering education, health and community services. It will also outline the current situation regarding education, health and community services in the Fermanagh and Omagh area, while also indicating future proposals in the plan area. These proposals will assist in identifying sites that have become or are likely to become surplus up until 2030.

1.2 As highlighted in the Population and Growth paper, demographic trends indicate an increasing older population and a declining number of children. The population of Fermanagh and Omagh District is

expected to grow from an estimated 115,300 in 2015 to 121,500 by 2030¹ which is an increase of approximately 5.4%.

- 1.3 During this period, the most significant change in population will be the increase in the proportion of pensioners. By 2030, the proportion of people aged 65 or over in Fermanagh and Omagh District will be 23% compared to 14.08% in 2011. In contrast, the number of children as a proportion of the population is projected to decline. At the time of the 2011 Census, the proportion of children under 16 years of age in the Fermanagh and Omagh district was 21.92%. By 2030 this is expected to have decreased to 19.1%. In addition, many of the area's young people who enter further education migrate out of Fermanagh and Omagh - with anecdotal evidence suggesting that as many as two-thirds do not return.
- 1.4 While an ageing population is now recognised as a "challenge" for the Western world, more locally the projected rise in the number of people aged 65 or over in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area by the year 2030 will have a potentially significant impact on the region and in particular policy-makers in the delivery of health and community services. In the education sector, a decline in pupil population will have implications for the sustainability of the existing network of schools in the area.

2.0 Regional Policy Context

- 2.1 The RDS 2035 identifies both Enniskillen and Omagh as main hubs to be developed as major locations providing employment, services and a range of cultural and leisure amenities.
- 2.2 Regional planning policies for community needs are currently set out in the Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (PSRNI). The aim of Policy PSU 1 is to allocate sufficient land to meet the anticipated needs of the community, in terms of health, education and other public facilities.
- 2.3 The Department's operational planning policy for education, health and community facility development in rural areas is set out in PPS 21 Sustainable Development in the Countryside under Policies CTY1, 2, 8, 13, 14 and 15. Supplementary guidance is contained in DCAN 9: Residential and Nursing Homes and DCAN 13: Crèches, Day Nurseries and Pre-School Playgroups.
- 2.4 The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) reiterates Policy PSU 1 of PSRNI and does not provide any additional guidance.

¹ NISRA 2012-based population projections 2012-2037

Programme for Government (PfG) 2011-15

- 2.5 Some of the key priorities set out in the Programme for Government 2011-2015 (OFMDFM) in relation to Education, Health and Community include:-

Priority 2 – Creating Opportunities, Tackling Disadvantage and Improving Health and Wellbeing

Priority 4 – Building a Strong and Shared Community

Priority 5 – Delivering High Quality and Efficient Public Services

Fermanagh and Omagh Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019

- 2.6 The vision for 'Fermanagh & Omagh is to be 'the place of choice – where people, communities and businesses prosper'
Theme 1 of the Strategy relates to *People and Community – 'Quality of Life'* and places an emphasis on creating a quality of life through improved delivery of services, the promotion of health safety and wellbeing and empowerment of local communities.

Fermanagh and Omagh Community Plan

- 2.7 From April 2015, the Council has a statutory duty to prepare a community plan in consultation with other service providers (including the Education Authority, Health and Social Care Trust, PSNI, NI Fire and Rescue Service). A Community Plan must identify long-term objectives and actions for:
- improving social, economic and environmental well-being and tackling poverty, exclusion and disadvantage;
 - contributing to achieving sustainable development across the region;
 - planning and improving public services.
- 2.8 Community planning involves integrating all the various streams of public life (such as services and functions that are delivered in an area) and producing a plan that will set out the future direction of a council area. Working with statutory bodies, agencies and the wider community, including the community and voluntary sector, the council will develop and implement a shared vision of promoting well-being and improving the quality of life of its citizens. The Council is currently engaged in Stage 2 of a community consultation process to help identify the long term social, economic and environmental objectives for the area.

3.0 Education

Organisations Responsible for Education

- 3.1 Education in Northern Ireland differs from the systems used elsewhere in the United Kingdom. A child's age on the 1st July determines the point of entry into the relevant stage of education, unlike England or Wales where it is the 1st September. Northern Ireland's results in GCSE and A-Level are consistently higher than those in the rest of the UK. The Department of Education (DE) has overall responsibility for education policy except for the higher and further education sector for which the Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) retains responsibility.
- 3.2 The Department of Education's main areas of responsibility cover pre-school, primary, post-primary and special education; the youth service; the promotion of community relations within and between schools; and teacher education and salaries. Its primary statutory duty is to promote the education of the people of Northern Ireland and to ensure the effective implementation of education policy.
- 3.3 A single Education Authority (EA) was established on the 1st April 2015 to replace the five Education and Library Board and the Staff Commission for Education and Library Boards and will now oversee the delivery of education, youth and library services throughout Northern Ireland. It is envisaged that there will be no change to how services are provided with the five sub-regional offices remaining at the existing education and library board sites.
- 3.4 Within the context of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area, the Western Regional Office of the Education Authority, ~~and~~ the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS), [the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education \(NICIE\) and Irish Medium Education Schools](#) are the key players. A full list of the different educational facilities provided across the area is contained in Appendix 1.

Education Policy Context

- 3.5 Education is one of the most significant investments in developing the individual, society and the economy and the overall vision of the Department of Education (the Department) is to see "every young person achieving to his or her full potential at each stage of his or her development".
- 3.6 In recent years there have been a number of influential publications which set out to all those involved in the education sector a challenge to consider new approaches. This includes sharing facilities which would promote a more cohesive and tolerant society and assist a better use of the resources available to education.

- 3.7 The most significant document published has been an Independent Strategic Review of Education, more commonly referred to as the Bain Review (2006). The Bain Review commented that the multi-sector school system, combined with the rural nature of parts of Northern Ireland, single-sex schools and a selective system of education had resulted in a large number of schools and a high proportion of small schools. While the report made 61 recommendations, the governing principle in judging the future of any school must be the quality of education provided – but said there must be a review of the future of small schools and recommended minimum enrolment figures for primary schools in urban and rural areas and post-primary schools.
- 3.8 Building on the issues highlighted in the Bain Report, the Department introduced the Sustainable Schools Policy (SSP) in 2009, followed by the Area Planning process (2011) which is designed to address the long-term primary school needs from 2012-2025. The overall output of these is the assessment of schools against a set of criteria for sustainable enrolment levels, delivery of quality education and financial sustainability.

4.0 SCHOOL PROVISION IN FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DISTRICT

General Context

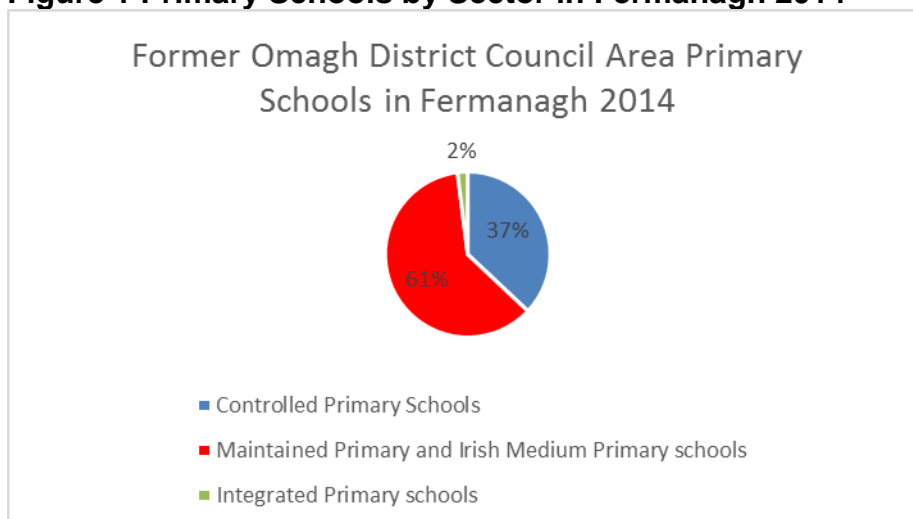
- 4.1 The Education Authority Western Region (EAWR), formerly the WELB, is largely rural and this is reflected in the number of primary schools across the catchment area. The WELB Strategic Area Plan (23rd June 2014) for Primary Schools recognises how integral these are to the rural community and indeed village life and in taking forward any future planning for primary schools, the rurality of the EAWR will be a major influencing factor. However, restructuring is necessary for a number of reasons including the fact that pupil population has fallen far below the numbers which our current schools were designed to accommodate, resulting in thousands of unfilled places. The WELB Plan indicates that every effort will be made to avoid closure but where schools are deemed to be not sustainable for future learning and teacher provision for pupils within an area, closure will be inevitable. The following section has been informed by the WELB Strategic Area Plans for Primary and Post Primary Schools which cover all school sectors. Unless otherwise stated, information is presented on the basis of the historic council areas as contained in the Strategic Area Plans.

School Provision in the Primary School Sector

(i) The Fermanagh Area

- 4.2 The Fermanagh area currently has 42 primary schools consisting of 16 Controlled, 25 Maintained (including 1 Irish Medium school) and 1 Integrated Primary School (Fig.1).

Figure 1 Primary Schools by Sector in Fermanagh 2014



Source: WELB Strategic Area Plan, 2014

- 4.3 In 2014/15, the capacity across all sectors has been approximated to be somewhere in the region of 7914 with an enrolment figure of 5622 resulting in 2369 unfilled places. The controlled sector accounts for 32% of all unfilled places, 66% in the maintained sector, 1% in Irish Medium Sector. Conversely, the integrated is the only sector which is over-subscribed (Table 1). Appendices 2 and 3 provides a more detailed school-by-school profile based on WELB enrolment statistics for 2014/15.

Table 1: Summary of Estimated Enrolments, Capacities and Unfilled Places by Sector in the Former Fermanagh Council Area 2014/15

Management Type	Capacity	Enrolment	Unfilled Places
Controlled	2795	2016	779
Maintained	4817	3306	1570
Irish Medium	58	38	20
Integrated	244	262	-18
Total	7914	5622	2369

Source: WELB Enrolment Statistics, October 2014

- 4.4 An analysis of capacities, enrolments and unfilled places based on the settlement hierarchy (Table 2) suggests that the issue of unfilled places is more prevalent in the villages when compared to the main town of Enniskillen and the local towns of Irvinestown and Lisnaskea. (See also Appendix 4 for school breakdown)

Table 2: Estimated Capacities, Enrolments and Unfilled Places in Fermanagh by Settlement Type 2014/15

Settlement Type	Capacity	Enrolment Number	Unfilled Places
Enniskillen	2034	1517	366
Towns	1189	805	384
Villages	4401	3031	1397
Rural	290	269	54
Total	7914	5622	2201

Source: WELB Enrolment Statistics October 2014

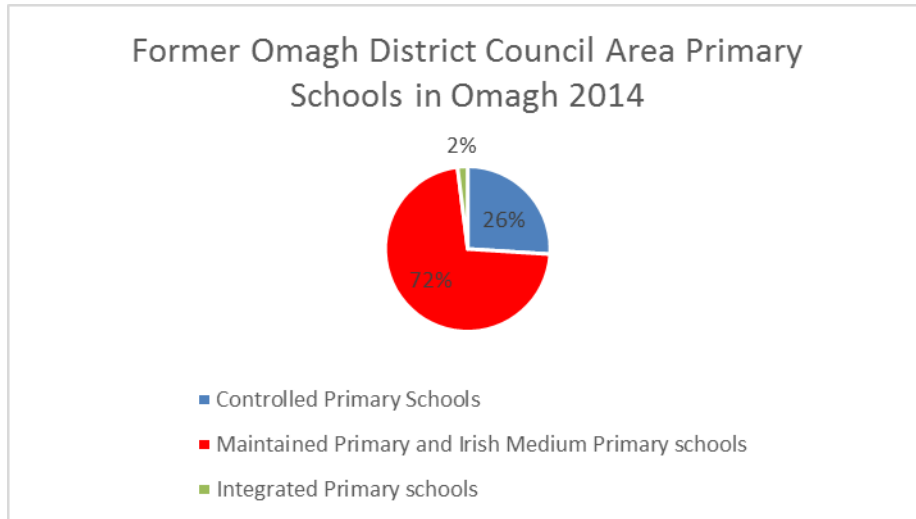
- 4.5 In considering the Annual Area Profiles (June 2015)² relating to enrolment numbers and unfilled places which currently exists throughout Fermanagh Area, it is notable that from the 42 primary schools listed, only 13 schools were deemed to be sustainable within the local area context in relation to enrolment and financial viability, with the rest being kept under review on an annual basis within the context of the DE Sustainable Schools Policy.

(ii) The Omagh Area

- 4.6 The former Omagh District Council Area has 42 Primary Schools which consists of 11 Controlled, 30 Maintained (including 1 Irish Medium School) and 1 Integrated Primary School.

Figure 2: Primary Schools by Sector in Omagh 2014

² The Annual Area Profiles provide relevant up to date information at school and area level and can be accessed on EANI's website, www.eani.org.uk.



Source: WELB Strategic Area Plan, 23rd June 2014

4.7 In 2014/15, the capacity across all sectors is estimated to be somewhere in the region of 6565 with an enrolment figure of 4943 with a deficit of 1637 unfilled places. The controlled sector accounts for 56% of all unfilled places compared to 44% in the maintained sector with both the Irish Medium and integrated sectors being oversubscribed (Table 3).

Table 3: Summary of Estimated Enrolments, Capacities and Unfilled Places by Sector 2014/15 - Former Omagh District

Management Type	Capacity	Enrolments 2014/15	Unfilled Places
Controlled	1756	1039	917
Maintained	4403	3456	720
Irish Medium	87	105	-18
Integrated	319	333	-14
Total	6565	4943	1637

Source: WELB Enrolment Statistics October 2014

4.9 An analysis of capacities, enrolments and unfilled places based on the settlement hierarchy (Table 4) suggests that the issue of unfilled places is greater in Omagh town, the villages and hamlets (See Appendix 5 for school breakdown).

Table 4: Capacities, Enrolments and Unfilled Places by Settlement Type 2014/2015 – Former Omagh District

Settlement Type	Capacity	Enrolment	Unfilled Places

Main Town	2679	2198	555
Local Towns	890	763	166
Villages	1595	1123	472
Hamlets	976	594	384
Rural	326	374	35
Total	6466	5052	1612

Source: WELB Enrolment Statistics October 2014

- 4.10 In considering the Annual Area Profiles relating to enrolment numbers and unfilled places which currently exists throughout the Omagh Area, only 15 schools were deemed to be sustainable within the local area context in relation to enrolment and financial viability, with the rest being kept under review on an annual basis within the context of the DE Sustainable Schools Policy. Indeed, the WELB Strategic Area Plan for Primary Schools (June 2014) asserts that there are 26 schools below the Sustainable Schools threshold and with the remaining 16 meeting the threshold or being oversubscribed. On the 1st October 2015, the Minister for Education announced the closure of Gortnagarn Primary School at the end of August 2016 due to declining enrolments. He also highlighted that there were an additional 251 unfilled places affecting 5 other maintained schools within a 4 mile radius of Gortnagarn PS which reinforces the uncertainty for the future of other schools within the local area.

Nursery Schools

- 4.11 There are 2 nursery schools in the Fermanagh and Omagh Council area with 19 attached to existing primary schools (See Appendix 6 for details). Of the 19, 6 in Fermanagh are described as community nursery schools as they represent the community as a whole and welcome applications from all. It is unlikely that there will be much demand for new Nursery schools over the Plan period as established Primary schools can cater for nursery needs through nursery units. Any increase in demand may be accommodated through the expansion of some Primary schools.

Special Needs Schools

- 4.12 There ~~is one are three~~ special school in Enniskillen and one in Omagh which specifically cater for children with special needs. In addition to these stand-alone special needs schools, a number of mainstream schools also cater for special educational needs.

Independent Schools

- 4.13 Kilskeery Independent Christian School is the only independent school in the District. It provides education for children from Primary Year 1 through to university entrance level Year 14.

School Provision in the Post-Primary School Sector

- 4.14 There are 13 post-primary schools in the former Fermanagh District of which 8 are located in Enniskillen Town. Most of these schools are under-subscribed with the exception of Collegiate and Erne Integrated. In 2013-2014, there were 5 Maintained schools with a combined enrolment of 834 pupils and a spare capacity of 706 representing 75% of the total number of unfilled places in Fermanagh (Table 5). The highest levels of unfilled places can be found at St Eugene's which accounts for 17%, St Aidan's High School 16%, Devenish College 14% and St Mary's High School.

Table 5: Post-Primary Schools in Former Fermanagh District 2013 -2014

Post- primary School	Sector	Enrolment 2013/14	Approved Enrolment	Unfilled Places
Collegiate Grammar	Controlled	503	500	-3
Devenish (Devenish and Lisnaskea HS amalgamated 2013)	Controlled	537	665	128
Erne Integrated	GMI	421	400	-21
Mount Lourdes Grammar	Voluntary	744	760	16
Portora Royal School	Voluntary	497	500	3
St Aidan's High School	Catholic Maintained	171	330	159
St Comhghall's College	Catholic Maintained	427	430	3
St Eugene's College	Catholic Maintained	111	300	189
St Fanchea's College	Catholic Maintained	330	350	20
St Joseph's College	Catholic Maintained	249	370	121
St Mary's College	Catholic Maintained	182	310	128
St Mary's High School	Catholic Maintained	121	230	109
St Michael's College	Voluntary	710	770	60
	All sectors	5003	5915	936*

Post- primary School	Sector	Enrolment 2013/14	Approved Enrolment	Unfilled Places
Total				

Source: WELB Strategic Area Plan, Revised January 2015. * Adjusted to remove oversubscribed places

- 4.15 There are 8 post primary schools in the former Omagh District of which 6 are located in the town which according to WELB 2015 served a total of 2,803 pupils in the 2013-2014 school year. Unfilled places in St John's accounts for 61% of all unfilled places while Omagh High School accounts for 30%. The Christian Brothers, Dean Maguirc, Drumragh College and Loreto are oversubscribed. Pupil projections in the WELB Strategic Area Plan for the period 2013-2025 indicate a downturn in enrolments across all post-primary sectors until 2020. There will be no 'unfilled places' within the Controlled sector by 2025 with 421 'unfilled places' within the Maintained, Catholic Voluntary Grammar and Irish-Medium schools.

Table 6: Post Primary Schools in Former Omagh District 2013/14

Post-Primary School	Sector	Enrolment 2013/14	Approved Enrolment	Unfilled Places
Christian Brothers Grammar	Voluntary	965	950	-15
Dean Maguirc College	Catholic Maintained	489	440	-49
Drumragh College	GMI	672	580	-92
Loreto Grammar	Voluntary	893	890	-3
Omagh Academy	Controlled	660	660	0
Omagh High School	Controlled	403	403	127
Sacred Heart College	Catholic Maintained	914	914	36
St John's High School	Catholic Maintained	185	185	265
Total	All sectors	5181	5450	428

Source: WELB Strategic Area Plan, Revised January 2015

Future Proposals

- 4.16 Most schools are owned by either the EAWR or the individual school Trustees of Catholic-managed schools. The DE does not have any

ownership of schools, therefore any acquisition or disposal of sites would emanate from the appropriate bodies. The key service providers of education in the Plan area were asked to indicate future needs and proposals which should be addressed in the Plan.

- 4.17 Most of the Maintained secondary schools and the Integrated schools in the Plan area have exceeded or are close to exceeding their capacity. There is currently a review of Controlled and Voluntary post-primary education ongoing in Fermanagh District.
- 4.18 Table 7 highlights proposed new school and major refurbishment schemes throughout the district council area in the Controlled school sector. The EAWR has identified one site for disposal. The amalgamation of Devenish College and Lisnaskea High School in 2013 resulted in the former Lisnaskea High School being surplus to requirements. The EAWR will dispose of the site in accordance with the Disposal of Public Sector Property in NI advice.

Table 7: New Facilities and Improvements within the Controlled School Sector

Location	Proposal
Omagh County Primary School Proposed new replacement primary school on the existing site (2.2 acres)	A Business Case will be submitted to the Department of Education for a new replacement school on an extended school site (Campsie Playing Fields)
Devenish College - New replacement post-primary school on the Tempo Road site (2.2ha).	A business case will be submitted to the DE for a new replacement school on the Tempo Road, Enniskillen for 800 pupils. Completion is anticipated for Spring 2019. Once completed, the Devenish College Site will become vacant (3.5ha). While the majority of the site will not be required for educational use, a small portion of land may be retained for educational purposes.
Collegiate Grammar School – New replacement post-primary school for a new voluntary post primary school to be established in 2016	The amalgamation of Collegiate GS and Portora Royal School has been approved to be effective from 1st September 2016. It is proposed that a new 900 pupil post-primary school will be built to provide a single school on a site in Enniskillen Town. As the current Collegiate School would not accommodate 900 pupils the site will be vacated (4.45ha).
Enniskillen Model Primary School	A new replacement primary school is expected to commence in early 2016. During construction, approval to decant the playground to the adjacent

Location	Proposal
	<p>Celtic Park has been agreed and will be returned on completion.</p> <p>The requirements of the new school will result in the Child Guidance Centre and District Office being relocated – options are currently being investigated.</p> <p>A 2m strip of land at the front of the Enniskillen Model PS will be transferred to Roads Service to facilitate a road-widening scheme at Wickham Place and Dublin Road.</p>
Willowbridge School	The school is currently undergoing a major extension and refurbishment programme funded by DE under the Schools Enhancement Programme.
Schools relocating to Lisanelly Shared Educational Campus	
Aravalee School and Resource Centre (site area: 4.7ha)	<p>Building works for the new school are underway with completion sometime in 2016.</p> <p>Once relocated, the Deverney Road site will be vacated. The EAWR is currently considering potential uses for the building and site. It is anticipated that the site will continue to be used for educational use.</p>
Omagh High School (site are: 2.01ha)	On relocation LSEC, it is expected that the site will not be required for educational use.
Campsie Playing Fields (site area 5.51ha)	A business case is to be submitted to DE to upgrade the pitches and recommend the use of the upgraded pitches to complement the LSEC
Omagh Academy GS (2.13ha)	On relocation to LSEC, it is expected that the site will not be required for educational use.

Source: EARW 2015

- 4.19 In the Maintained school sector, CCMS is exploring Parish options with Drumduff PS, Roscavey PS and Oliver Plunkett PS, Beragh, Knocknagor PS, Magheralough PS and St Scire's, St Brigid's PS, Altamuskin and St Mathew's Garvaghey. This may result in the amalgamation of some schools, thus resulting in redundant school buildings. However, as this review is at the initial stages, when and if anything will materialise is unknown. It is also noted that St Macartan's Primary School, Dromore closed in August 2015.
- 4.20 CCMS is also proposing the re-organisation of three existing schools in Derrylin/Lisnaskea/Rosslea (St Aidan's High School, St. Comhghall's College and St Eugene's College) on the basis of a one school solution on two sites or a two school solution operated within a shared governance arrangement. CCMS is also reviewing potential models for the future of two schools in the Irvinestown/Dromore area. CCMS and WELB/EAWR were also working with authorities in the Republic of Ireland to develop draft proposals for a cross-border model involving St. Mary's High School, Brollagh.

- 4.21 Where schools fall below the minimum thresholds for sustainability, there may be local area solutions which can justify the retention of the school. Local area solutions are being explored by CCMS for the overall Parish Provision for St Patrick's PS in Derrygonnelly. EAWR and CCMS are also working towards exploring Shared Education with groups of two or three primary schools which are close to each other.
- 4.22 The most significant proposal in the Plan area is the establishment of the Lisanelly Shared Educational Campus (LSEC) in Omagh. The Northern Ireland Assembly's Education Committee (September 2015) has recently backed plans for the expansion of shared education aimed at enabling more children from different backgrounds to spend time learning together. The EAWR has responsibility for three of the schools which are subject to relocation and will decide whether any of the vacated sites will be retained for educational purposes (Table 7). However, the EAWR does not have responsibility for the Sacred Heart, Loreto Grammar School or Christian Brothers School. As the three sites are owned by Voluntary trusts and are not in public ownership, it will be for the trustees of the sites to make any decisions as to the future use of these sites once they are vacated by the schools. The Department of Education has established a LSEC team which is currently working with the schools and other partners to progress the planning of LSEC.

Further Education

- 4.23 The South West College has campuses at Enniskillen and Omagh as well as at Dungannon and Cookstown. There is also a technology and skills centre located in Enniskillen, which is part of the South West College. In 2014/15, there were 7,500 enrolments at the Enniskillen campus and 8,500 at Omagh and it is anticipated that for 2015/16 there will be no significant increases in numbers due to the current financial climate.
- 4.24 The Enniskillen campus at Fairview is to be relocated to the former Erne Hospital site and will be ready for use in September 2019. The Fairview site is expected to be disposed of in late 2019. It is also hoped that the college will open an Integrated Innovation Centre at the Lisanelly Shared Educational Campus around the same time. South West College also plans to work with DEL (or their successors), QUB and UU to develop a Rural Higher Education Base in the south-west, the detail of which is unclear at this time.

Conclusion on Education in the Plan Area

- 4.25 As a result of the demographic trends, the school system is experiencing a major reduction in pupil enrolments and this trend is expected to continue in the future. The multi-sectoral education system

in Northern Ireland due to a variety of school types, a selective system of education, a large amount of single sex schools and the rural nature of the area, explains the large number of schools, the majority of which are small. This brings the issue of viability and sustainability of schools in the Plan area in to question. The process of taking forward proposals contained in the WELB Strategic Area Plan is complex and will be a rolling process to be taken forward by the EAWR over a number of years.

4.26 The main conclusions regarding education provision in the Plan area are as follows:-

- Declining pupil numbers in the Primary School sector has resulted in many schools having unfilled places. The proportion of unfilled places is greater in Maintained schools and within village locations.
- Alternative local area solutions can help retain schools which may be below the minimum threshold numbers.
- Restructuring in the Post-Primary School sector will result in a number of existing schools being relocated or amalgamated.
- The most significant proposals in the Plan area will be the establishment of the Lisanelly Shared Educational Campus (LSEC) in Omagh and the amalgamation of Collegiate Grammar School and Portora Royal School on a new single site in Enniskillen.
- Further reviews are likely over the Plan period and accordingly it is important that the Plan is able to provide flexibility for new schools or the re-use of outmoded school buildings.

5.0 Health and Social Services

Organisations Responsible for Health Care

5.1 Under the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS), the Western Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) is responsible for commissioning services, resource management and performance management and service improvement. It works to identify and meet the needs of the Northern Ireland population through its five Local Commissioning Groups (LCGs) which cover the same geographical areas as the Health and Social Care Trusts. LCGs have responsibility for assessing health and social care needs; planning health and social care to meet current and emerging needs; and securing the delivery of health and social care to meet assessed needs. The Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCT) is responsible for improving the health and well-being for the people of the Western Board area which includes Fermanagh and Omagh District.

Health Policy Context

- 5.2 The context for health is set out in the mission statement identified by the DHSSPS who retain overall responsibility for health. It aims to improve the health and social well-being of the people of Northern Ireland. It endeavours to do so by ensuring the provision of appropriate health and social care services, both in clinical settings (hospitals and GPs surgeries), and in the community (through nursing, social work and other professional services). It also supports programmes of health promotion and education to encourage the community to adopt activities, behaviours and attitudes which will lead to better health and well-being.
- 5.3 The role of the WHSCT under the control of DHSSPS is to identify health and social care needs and to ensure that services are provided to meet these needs. There are five different aspects of service delivery;
- acute services;
 - women's and children's services;
 - primary care and older people's services;
 - adult mental health and learning disability;
 - medical services
- 5.4 With population projections for Northern Ireland indicating a marked increase in the size of the population at older ages, the growth in the number of the very elderly (over 85 population) will present a considerable challenge. It is DHSSPS policy to maximise independent living and reduce reliance on hospital and residential care. In the future, advances in medicine, care and technology will continue to drive change in the range of services that can be provided safely in the community. This will enable more people to be diagnosed, treated and cared for at home or close to where they live.
- 5.5 **'Transforming Your Care: A Review of Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland' (TYC)** was published in 2011 and set out proposals for change across a range of health and social care services. In 2013, the post-consultation report on the TYC review set out key recommendations for change across a number of important service areas including primary care, older people's services and acute services for those with long-term conditions. There was also a focus on prevention, early intervention, integrated care and promotion of personalised care to enable more services to be provided in the community. This will result in a significant shift from provision of services in hospitals to the provision of services in the community, where it is safe and effective to do this.

- 5.6 Sir Liam Donaldson was subsequently commissioned to carry out a review into Northern Ireland's health service (**The Donaldson Review**) noting that the TYC programme had established that elsewhere in the UK, a population of 1.8 million people would likely to be served by 4 acute hospitals compared to the 10 that currently exist in Northern Ireland. The report made 10 recommendations, the crux of which was that TYC was not being properly implemented and a new costed, timetabled implementation plan was needed quickly to address a series of deficiencies across a wide range of health care services.
- 5.7 To date, progress has been made to implement the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) initiatives which were funded towards the end of 2013/14 year which will make care more joined-up with £150 million being invested in the development of 5 '*hub and spoke*' models to provide care in the community. Other initiatives include early intervention work, increasing the amount of community-based mental health services and developing alternatives to A&E attendance or hospital admission. However given the scope of change required on an economically challenged environment together with increased demands on A&E departments, there are significant challenges ahead in how best to deliver health and social services.

Acute Hospital Services

- 5.8 Acute medical services stopped being provided at Tyrone County Hospital in March 2009. Patients who require an emergency hospital admission are treated at the new South-West Acute Hospital in Enniskillen or Altnagelvin hospital. Tyrone County retains a range of services including Urgent Care and Treatment Centre for minor injuries. It will be replaced by a new Local Enhanced Hospital which is currently under construction on land adjacent to the Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital site.

Other Hospital Services

- 5.9 Mental health care is currently provided for at the Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital located in Omagh. However, The WHSCT has recently submitted an Outline Business Case (OBC) to the Department of Health for consideration. The preferred option is to build a new mental health facility at Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital, Omagh. It is anticipated that patient services currently provided in a number of properties on the Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital site will transfer to the new facility.

Health Centres

- 5.10 Health centres/doctors clinics in Fermanagh area are located in Enniskillen, Irvinestown, Lisnaskea, Belleek, Brookeborough, Derrygonnelly, Derrylin, Ederney, Florencecourt, Fivemiletown, Kinawley, Maguiresbridge Newtownbutler, Roslea and Tempo. In

Omagh District, these are located in Omagh, Carrickmore, Fintona, Dromore, Drumquin, Gortin, Beragh and Trillick.

Care Provision in Fermanagh and Omagh Districts

- 5.11 According to the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA), there are 134 registered services across the new Council Area including children’s homes, respite and domiciliary care and day care (Table 8). Day care facilities are evenly distributed across the Fermanagh and Omagh areas catering for the elderly and physically disabled and people with learning difficulties. However, the WHSCT consultation document “*Proposal for the Future of Day Care Services for Older People* (2015) proposed a merger of Gortin and Newtownstewart facilities in Newtownstewart, the closure of Dromore and Rosslea Day Centres and the mergers of Garrison and Belcoo Day centres with Derrygonnelly.
- 5.12 This serves to highlight the challenge of delivering services over a wide geographic area and where the need to centralise in order to effect efficiency savings can often take priority over addressing social exclusion and the needs of vulnerable groups and the disadvantaged in rural areas. In response to this consultation document, the Council robustly rejected the proposed mergers and closures and highlighted the fact that rural communities face particular challenges with regard to access to services and sustainability and that models of care to meet diverse rural needs must be explored.³

Table. 8: Regulated/Registered Services within Fermanagh and Omagh 2015

Service Type	Status under RQIA	No. of Services registered/Regulated	Maximum No. of Places
Children’s Homes*	Registered Service	3	24 registered places
Day Care Settings	Registered Service	33	848 registered places
Domiciliary Care Agencies – Conventional	Registered Service	9	Not recorded
Domiciliary Care Services – Supported Living	Registered Service	15	Not Recorded
Independent Hospitals**	Registered Service	4	4 Places within Hospice
Independent	Registered	28	84 Dental

³ Response from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council on consultation document “Proposal for the Future of Day Care Services for Older People” 20 May 2015.

Service Type	Status under RQIA	No. of Services registered/Regulated	Maximum No. of Places
Hospitals – Dental***	Service		Chairs/Surgeries
Nursing Homes	Registered Service	17	868 Registered Places***
Residential Care Homes	Registered Service	19	262 Registered Places
Mental Health and Learning Disability (MHLD) Facilities	Non-Registered but inspected by RQIA	6	81 ward beds

<i>*2 Long Stay & 1 Respite</i>
<i>**3 Cosmetic Laser Services & 1 Children's Hospice</i>
<i>***Dental Practices Registered for Private Treatments</i>
<i>****Including 139 Residential Care Beds Within Nursing Homes</i>

Source RQIA: 2015

Health – Existing Situation and Future Proposals

- 5.13 With the loss of acute medical services from the Tyrone County Hospital in Omagh, health care remains an important issue in the Plan area. The building of a new “Local Enhanced Hospital” in Omagh is underway. It will provide 90 beds, 3 day procedure operating theatres, outpatient facilities, psychiatric care, renal dialysis facilities, an outreach cancer treatment centre and other peripheral facilities.
- 5.14 There is a recognised need for a new Health Centre in Omagh to replace the current and outdated building on the Old Mountfield Road. The existing Health Centre will become surplus as it is expected it will be relocated to the site of the new hospital. The former Erne Hospital site had been intended to be developed as an integrated site for a wide range of public services including the PSNI and South West College. However, to date, only the Ambulance Service and South West College have chosen to locate there. A planning application for a new ambulance station on a 1.6 hectare portion of the site is currently under consideration.
- 5.15 There are no future needs identified for any additional building of new health centres. If the need arises, existing health centres will be either extended or refurbished. However, it is important to be aware that any

projects are subject to Business Case Approval and the availability of capital funding.

6.0 Community Services and Facilities

Community Centres

- 6.1 Fermanagh and Omagh District Council is the main public body responsible for providing or facilitating community facilities within the Plan area. There are 9 community centres owned or supported by the Council located in Belcoo, Belleek, Ederney, Kesh, Newtownbutler and Roslea and Omagh (CKS, Hospital Road and Strathroy).
- 6.2 Other community centres are community owned and are located in the local towns, villages and throughout the rural area, many of which are also subsidised by the Council. Significant community activity takes place in Orange Halls, GAA Halls and church halls. As part of the formulation of a new *'Community Development/Support Strategy'*, a definitive audit of all these community facilities will be carried out.

Police Stations and Army Barracks

- 6.3 There are five operational police stations within the Plan area, three in Fermanagh District and two in Omagh District (Table 9). While these have 24 hour activity, all have limited opening hours. Recent reports indicate that a further 8 stations are under review for closure including Beragh Police Station. There are three defunct army bases in the Plan area, Lisanelly and St Lucia in Omagh and Grosvenor Barracks in Enniskillen. The entire Lisanelly base in Omagh has been transferred to the DE to accommodate a shared educational campus. Future plans for St. Lucia have yet to be finalised.

Table 9: Location and status of Police Stations in Fermanagh and Omagh Districts

Settlement	Status
Fermanagh District	
Enniskillen	24 hour
Lisnaskea	24 hour
Kesh	24 hour
Omagh District	
Omagh (District F HQ)	24 hour
Beragh	24 Hour

Source: PSNI 2015

- 6.4 It is unlikely that previous proposals to develop the former Erne Hospital site into a multi-use public service facility involving the relocation of the PSNI Station will occur in the near future. Instead, an extensive refurbishment project to improve and pro-long the lifespan of

Enniskillen Police Station is to be undertaken subject to available funding. The 7.6 hectare former Grosvenor Barracks site was purchased by DSD from MOD in March 2008. DSD wish to see the site redeveloped to achieve the overarching objective of a sustainable mixed tenure eco-neighbourhood (of approximately 200 residential units). An outline planning application (Reference L/2011/0079/O) is currently under consideration. The proposal also includes allotments and a community heat and power facility.

Fire Stations

- 6.5 The Plan area falls into the Western Area Command which provides seven fire stations - four in Fermanagh District (Enniskillen, Irvinestown, Lisnaskea and Belleek) and three in Omagh District (District HQ Omagh, Fintona and Dromore). A new purpose built community fire station opened in 2014 on Killybrack Road and the former station along Mountjoy Road has been sold on the open market.

Library Provision

- 6.6 In 2009, Libraries NI took over the responsibility for the provision of library services from the Education and Library Boards. There are six libraries provided, located in Enniskillen, Lisnaskea, Irvinestown, Omagh, Fintona and at the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies in the Ulster American Folk Park.
- 6.7 Following a strategic review of the library service which commenced in 2011, Fintona library was earmarked for possible closure unless either alternative premises or improvements were made to the current building. It remains open following an extensive refurbishment in 2013.

A mobile library service is also operated across the district. There are no current proposals for new library buildings.

Future Proposals for Community Facilities

- 6.8 The Council does not have any immediate plans to extend any of their community facilities. There are no plans to build any new police stations, fire stations or libraries during the Plan period. Any application regarding community facilities will be dealt with through the normal Development Management process.

7.0 Conclusion

- 7.1 Decisions on the provision of health, education or community services are a matter for the relevant service providers. However the Local Development Plan can aid a joined-up approach in the matter of public

interest to ensure there is the necessary flexibility to allow for new health, education and community services within settlements as and when need arises. The Plan can also inform the community and potential investors as to health, education and community proposals which are likely to occur.

- 7.2 Future proposals identified by the major service providers for education, health and community services will be reflected in the Plan. As a result of new facilities or changes in provision, it is expected that a significant amount of land will also become surplus to requirements and will present scope for redevelopment opportunities as and when they become available. Vacated sites could in turn provide development opportunities to be identified in the Plan. It is important that these are used for mixed use development which could provide jobs, and community facilities with some residential use. Sites within the town centre could also provide opportunities for retail expansion.
- 7.3 The Plan will allow for the development of education, health, community and cultural facilities subject to specific criteria. These criteria regard impact on residential amenity, the scale and character of the settlement, infrastructure and access requirements and any prejudicing of development on surrounding lands. In recognising the importance of community facilities to settlements, the Plan, through restricting the redevelopment of such sites, will seek to limit the loss of individual community uses.
- 7.4 The Plan cannot identify policies for all sites which may become surplus, as it cannot anticipate demand for alternative or new sites. Such development proposals will be determined through the Development Management process.
- 7.5 Over the Plan period, it is likely that these services will be kept under review and changes will occur. In light of this and the above proposals, the key elements of any strategy should be to:-
- Inform the community and potential investors as to the health and education proposals which are likely to occur;
 - Allow for provision of community uses on zoned housing land so long as it does not prejudice comprehensive development of the sites;
 - Provide the necessary flexibility to allow for new health, education and community services within settlements as and when need arises;
 - Where there are definite proposals for new buildings in the education and health sectors, these should be identified and protected in the Plan; and

- Identify suitable alternative uses for vacated sites or surplus land.