

# PLAN FOR LIBRARIES

## CALL FOR EVIDENCE

Scrutiny evidence in response to the proposed closure of Stoke Library:

21 Albert Road, Stoke, Plymouth, PL2 1AN

Response from Stoke Damerel Community College

Over the past month we at Stoke Damerel Community College have been working with members of our community to establish their involvement with their local library and the proposed impact of its closure.

In the present economic climate it is easy to see local libraries as a soft target but their impact on our local community should not be underestimated. Stoke Library provides our students and parents with a variety of services and facilities, including the use of computers and access to free Wi-Fi. For those members of our community with low incomes, it may be their only access to digital information and social net-working. Students whose families are unable to afford to purchase their own computers, or the monthly Wi-Fi tariffs, this enables them to achieve the digital connectivity they may otherwise miss out on.

Stoke Damerel Community College is a registered Reading Connects school and places great importance on reading for pleasure. We have a fully imbedded reading culture across the curriculum and have invited parents to become reading mentors as part of our 2017 reading study which encourages parents to support their child's reading development. Have a wide range of easily accessible books provided by our local library is fundamental to encouraging a reading culture at home as well as in school. Studies by the Institute of Education show that children who read for pleasure are more likely to do better at school than their peers. The closure of Stoke Library could severely disadvantage those families who are dependent on their local libraries for their reading material.

There will inevitably be an impact on the local community should Stoke Library close and we are concerned that we are not aware of any alternative provision being proposed. As educators in a deprived area of Plymouth we feel that local library provision should be expanded not closed

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