

SHETLAND'S LOCAL PLACE PLANS

Leaflet 11 - A Young People

Why should we think about young people?

Supporting young people helps communities thrive now and in the future. Planning decisions about land and buildings can influence access to education, opportunities for play and socialising, and the ability for young people to stay, learn, and work locally.

How do young people affect land use and buildings?

- Schools, nurseries, and youth spaces need safe access and suitable facilities
 - Outdoor spaces support play, exploration, and informal learning
 - Teenagers need places to gather, feel welcome, and express themselves
 - Housing and transport affect whether young people can stay in the community
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Key concepts:

Play and Exploration: Safe, stimulating spaces for children to play and learn

Youth-Friendly Spaces: Places where teenagers can meet, relax, and feel included

Access to Education: Proximity to schools, colleges, and digital learning

Intergenerational Design: Spaces that support interaction across age groups

What does this look like in Shetland?

- **Remote communities** may lack early years or secondary education nearby
 - **Weather and darkness** mean sheltered play and indoor youth spaces are vital
 - **Community halls and leisure centres** may double as youth hubs
 - **Digital access** supports remote learning and skills development
 - **Teenagers** often lack informal spaces to “hang out” safely
 - **Transport links** affect access to school, college, sport and social activities
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Things to think about when planning land and buildings:

- Are there safe walking and cycling routes to schools and youth spaces?
 - Is there access to play areas and informal gathering spaces for teenagers?
 - How can buildings support learning, creativity, and youth activities?
 - Is digital access available for remote learning and skills development?
 - Are young people involved in shaping local spaces and decisions?
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Examples:

- Create sheltered play areas and youth shelters in exposed locations
 - Design flexible indoor spaces for youth clubs, study, and creative use
 - Include informal seating and lighting in public spaces for teenagers
 - Support digital hubs and Wi-Fi access in community buildings
 - Plan housing and transport to help young people stay in the area
 - Involve young people in designing parks, murals, or community events
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For information and support:

- [Support for Children and Families – Shetland Islands Council](#)
- [Schools and Learning – Shetland Islands Council](#)
- [Home - Youth Scotland](#)
- [Play Scotland, the national expert in Play](#)
- [10 Modern Hangout Spaces for Teenager – Smart Playrooms](#)
- [Make Space for Girls](#)
- [Voluntary Action Shetland](#)