

Heart of Newhaven – Trinity Academy Workshop (21/6/19)

1 Overview

On 21 June 2019 a half-day workshop was hosted at Trinity Academy. Eighteen pupils in total attended and were encouraged to mix and work collaboratively throughout the day. A variety of activities were carried out to encourage the young people to consider what they would like to see as part of a multigenerational centre within the Victoria Primary School building. A summary of the key activities is below.

2 Google Cardboard

Pupils were presented with images of Victoria Primary School through Google Cardboard to familiarise themselves with the location and existing space at the school. The pictures were taken at the end of the first workshop, hosted at Victoria Primary School.



Victoria Primary School courtyard



Victoria Primary School library

3 Mapping exercise

Pupils were given a map of Newhaven. They were asked to locate their home and school on the map, and then mark the route they took to school. The pupils were then given time to reflect upon their journey to school and the things they see in the community.

The pupils then continued to mark on the map areas they liked the most and what they liked the least. It was noted that the network of quiet and green cycle paths, Western and Newhaven Harbours, Ocean Terminal and David Lloyd Gym were commonly mentioned as something that the pupils liked the most.

Pupils decisively expressed their dislike of wastelands, referring to the unbuilt area at Western Harbour. They also reported that Trinity Academy, self-built skate park, litter and lack of clean green streets are some of the features in the area they dislike. The full list of responses can be found in the table below.

Like		Dislike	
Cycle paths x6	Harbour x4	Wasteland (brownfield, part of Western harbour) x10	Trinity Academy x2 (decrepit school)
Ocean Terminal x3	David Lloyd Gym x3	Litter and lack of clean green streets	Self-built skate park
Porto & Fi Deli (it has a nice view) x2	Newhaven Lighthouse x2	The abandoned areas	Victoria Park
Coastline	Heritage of Newhaven	Citadel	Britannia (because it's really posh)
Self-built skate park	ASDA	New builds	Takeaways
Vue Cinema	Victoria Park		
Brownfields	Buses		
Bangholm (a lot of sports clubs)			

In the final part of this exercise, pupils were asked to think about what activities they do that they travel out of Newhaven for. The most frequent responses included sports facilities, such as swimming pool and ski resort, shops that cannot be found at Ocean Terminal, museums and art galleries, medical facilities, nice and clean beaches, drama and dancing classes, the airport and big green spaces.

4 Victoria Primary School as a Multigenerational Centre

Pupils were familiarised with Victoria Primary School and that there is potential for a community group called The Heart of Newhaven to put forward a proposal to turn the building in to a multigenerational centre for the community. The pupils were asked to consider what they would like to see happen, and encouraged to capture their thoughts and ideas on post-it notes. They were then asked to vote with sticky dots (three dots per person, all or some per idea, not voting for one's own suggestions) on the ideas they think should be introduced first and would be the most beneficial for those using the centre. The results of this activity are documented in the tables below (numbers in red represent the number of times this idea/response was recorded across the group of participants).

The most popular suggestions from pupils on what they would like to see were activity rooms to rent out (possibly free of charge or without membership), sports and multipurpose hall, theatre group, place to read and study, with homework or study support available. The activity also revealed strong support for environmental consciousness and learning about climate change within the community – an apt suggestion given the coastal location of Newhaven. Other popular suggestions include a café, space for playing music and spaces for fundraising/charity activities.

The PAS team explained that a multigenerational centre would work best when it connects people of all different backgrounds and is inclusive of all varieties of people for example age, disability, ethnic/cultural background, faith, interests and hobbies.

The pupils were then asked to consider what are the skills they could share with other people and what skills could others teach them. The most highly ranked suggestions from the pupils on what they felt they can share with the community were education about the climate crisis, playing drums and music in general, activism and support with school lessons. On the other hand, they suggested that others can teach them skills in knitting, singing, art and maths.

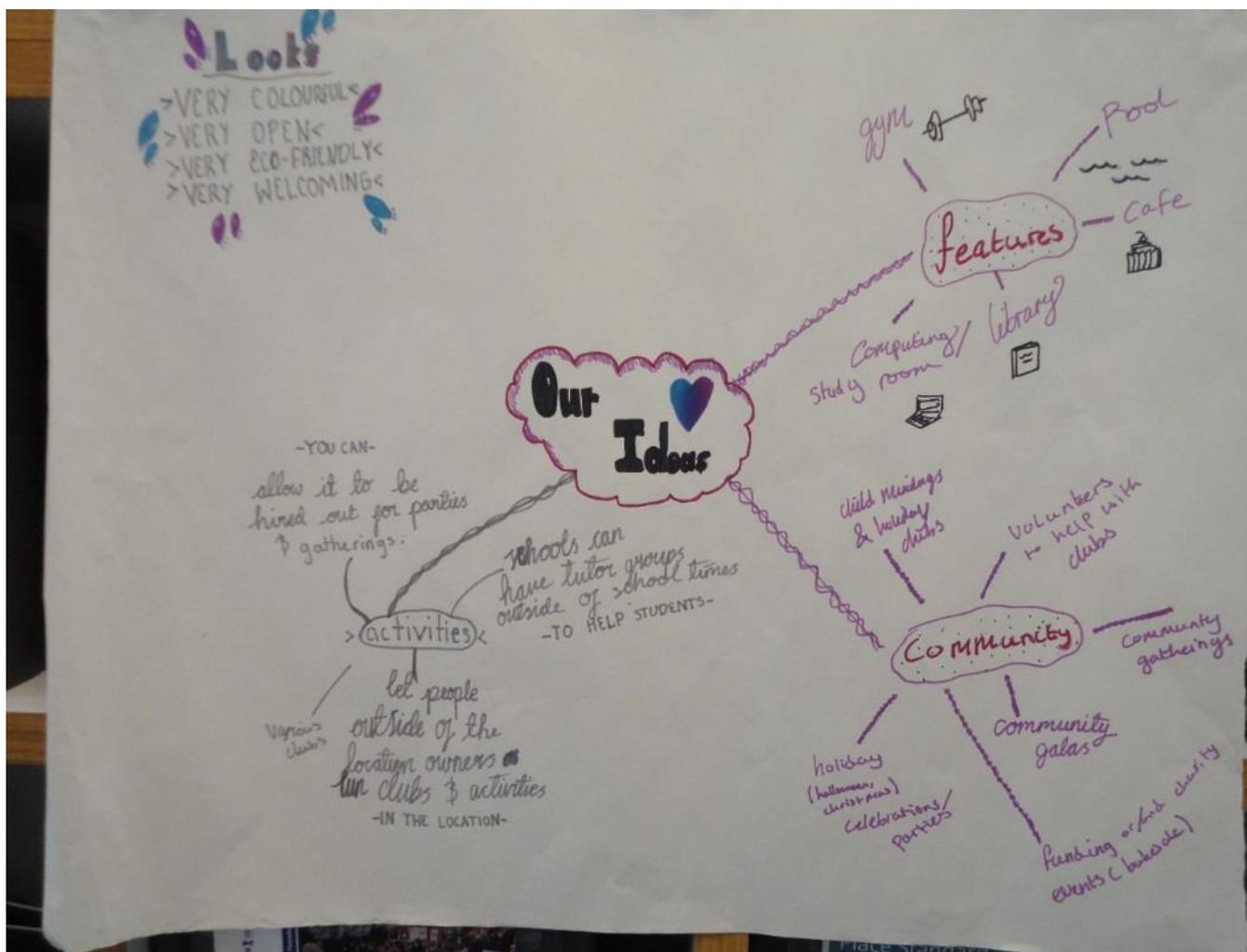
What I can teach others?	Votes
The climate crisis	3
Activism	1
Music	1
Playing drums	2
School lesson support	1
Sea cadets (national youth charity)	
Knitting and sewing	
Outdoor skills	

What others can teach me?	Votes
Knitting	1
Singing	
Art	1
Maths	
Others hobbies and skills	
Career mornings to help younger generations	

What we would like to see in Victoria Primary School	Votes	What we would like to see in Victoria Primary School	
Rooms to rent out (for free) x3	6	Free workshops and events	
Theatre group x2	6	Concerts	
Homework/study support for children x2	5	Chess club	1
A place to read or study x3	4	Youth groups	
Sports/multipurpose hall x5	5	Book club for older kids to read to younger kids	1
Music space x3	3	Crèche/nursery x2	
Place for fundraisers/charities	4	Language courses	
Environmentally conscious (building? activities?)	3	Craft groups	
Climate change (education) within the community	3	Sports clubs	
A place for children to hangout x2	2	Scout groups	
Music rooms	2	Garden	
A place with free internet access with computers x2	1	Lectures	1
Café x4	1	Gym x2	
Place to rent for dance lessons, rehearsals or school work x2		Swimming pool	
Charity coffee mornings x3	1	Art gallery	1
Library x3	1	Museum	
Music lessons/activities x3		Games hub	
Family area- place to meet/chat		Mental health support x2	
Cooking activities for all ages x2	1	Movement classes	
Space open to everyone x2	1		
Food bank			
Job fairs			
Clubs (book, film, baking clubs)			

5 Proposals

Finally, the pupils were asked to consider everything they had discussed so far, and use those ideas and information to produce a poster on their proposal for the building. Pupils were working in pairs and groups of threes and produced total of six posters. Below are pictures of the posters produced during the workshop, with the key ideas summarised below each picture.



Key Ideas

Looks

Very colourful, open, eco-friendly, welcoming

Activities

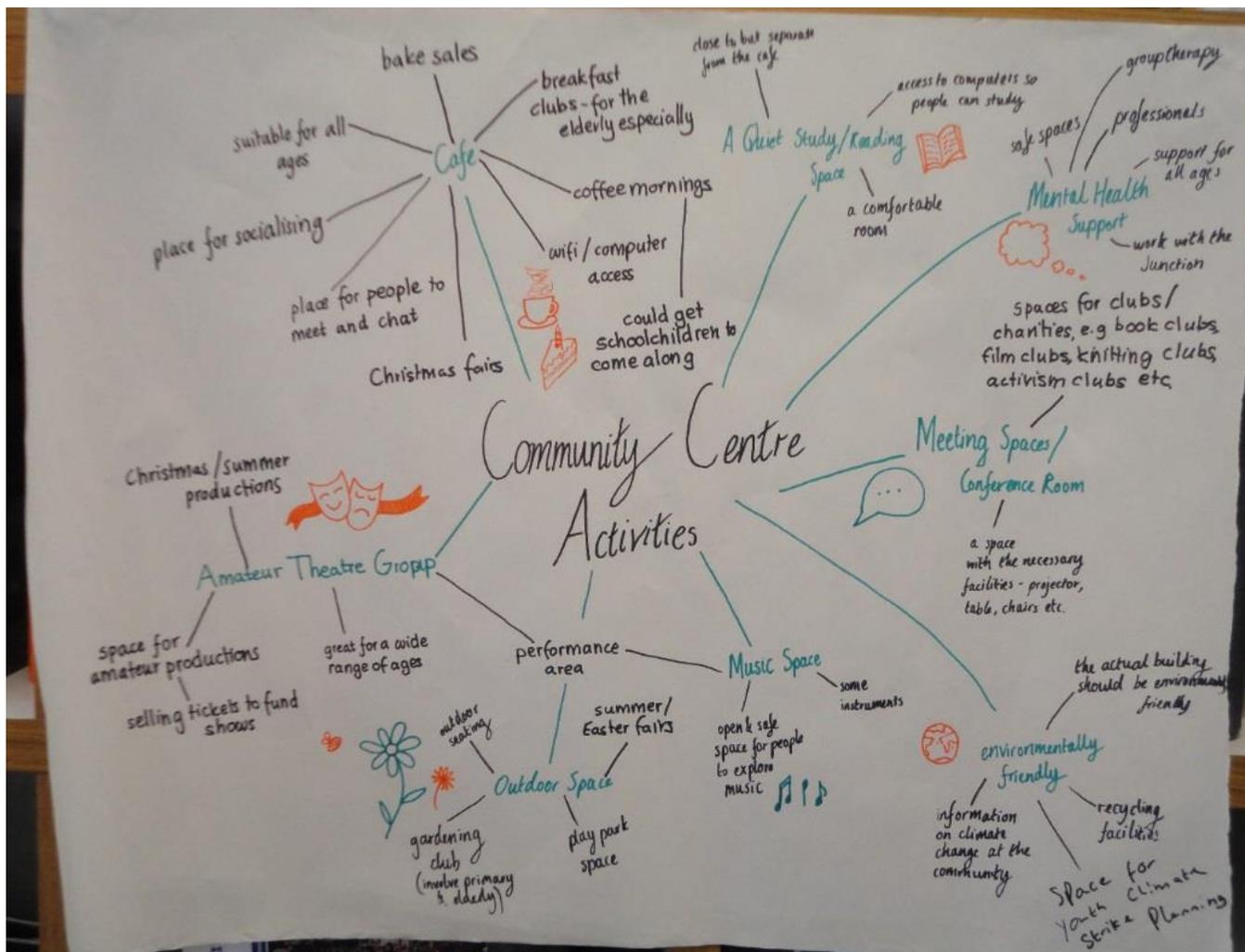
Possibility to hire out for parties and gatherings, tutor groups outside of school time, clubs and activities

Features

Gym, swimming pool, café, library, computing/study room

Community

Events, volunteering and charity events



Key Ideas

A quiet study/reading space

Comfortable room, separated but close to café, access to computers.

Mental health support

Support for all ages, group therapy, safe space, connect and work with The Junction.

Meeting spaces/conference room

Space with projector, space for charities and different clubs.

Music space

Instruments, performance area

Outdoor space

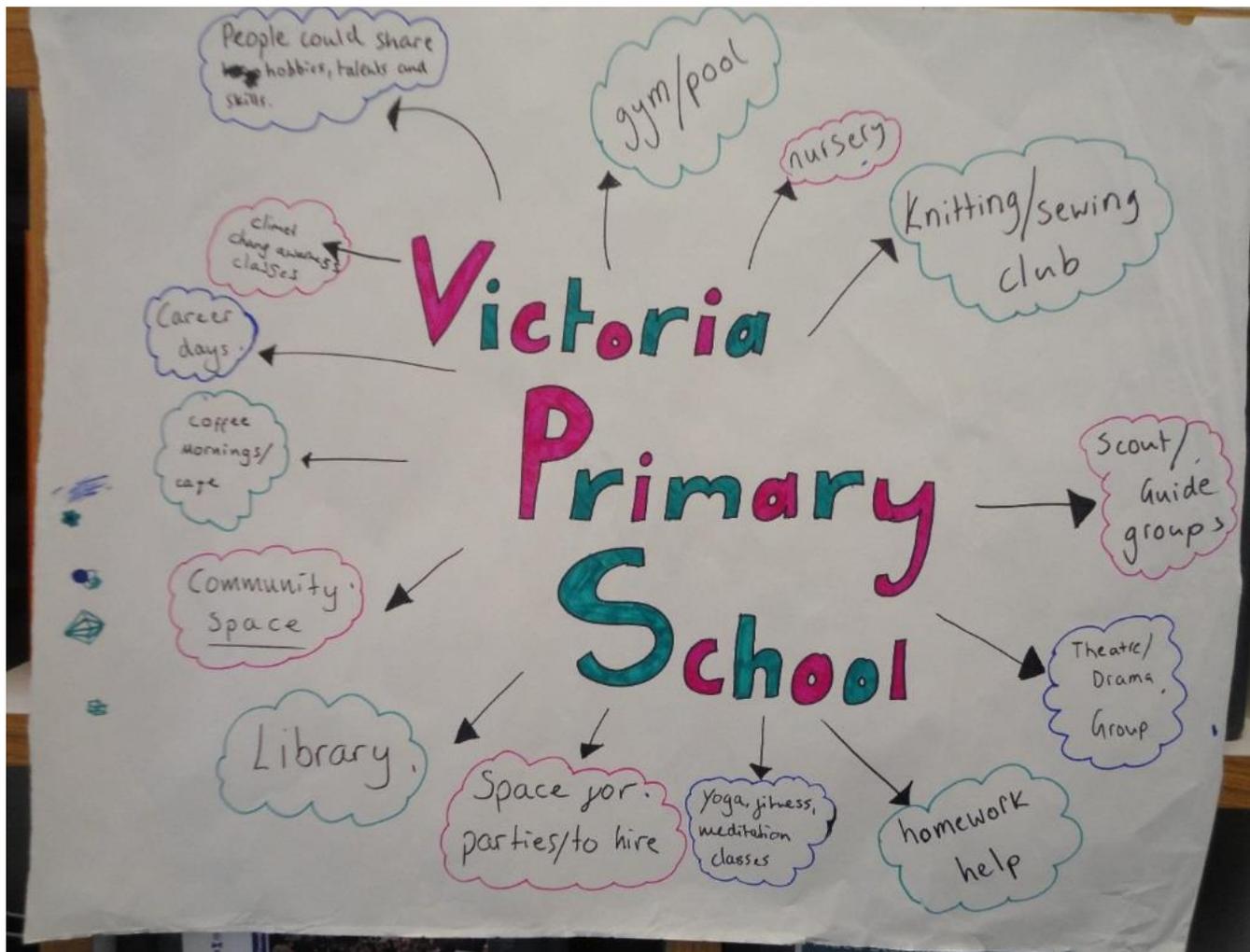
Summer fairs, park, gardening club, outdoor seating

Amateur theatre group

Space for amateur productions, great for wide range of ages

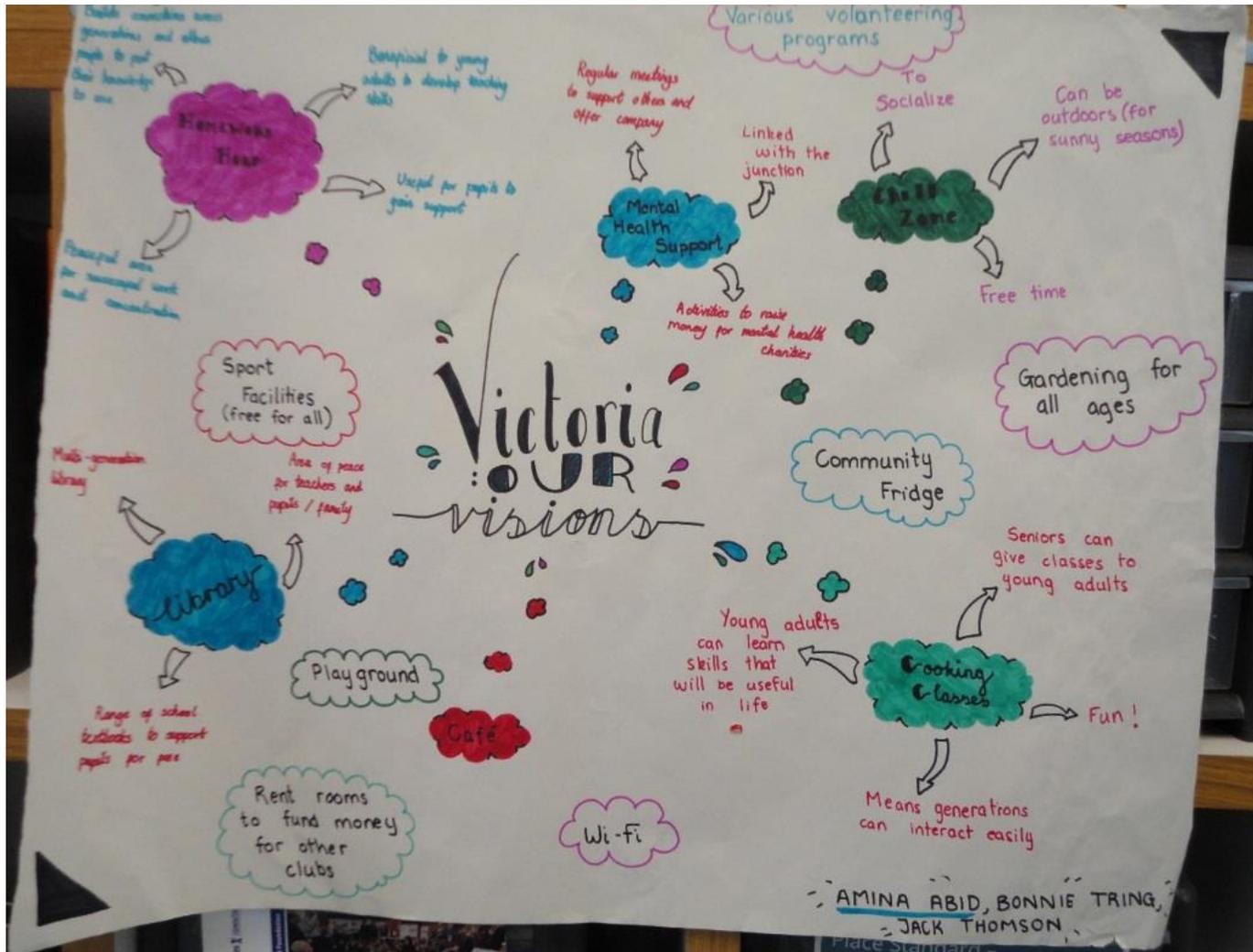
Café

Coffee mornings, Christmas fairs, computer access, breakfast clubs- especially for elderly, place for socialising.



Key Ideas:

- sharing hobbies, talents and skills
- gym, swimming pool, yoga, meditation classes
- nursery
- knitting/sewing club
- scout groups
- climate change awareness classes
- theatre/drama group
- homework support
- space for parties
- library
- coffee mornings
- career days



Key Ideas

Homework help

Pupils getting support, develop teaching skills, peaceful area for work and concentration

Mental health support

Regular meetings, linked with The Junction, raise money for mental health charities

Chill zone

Socialising, outdoor space

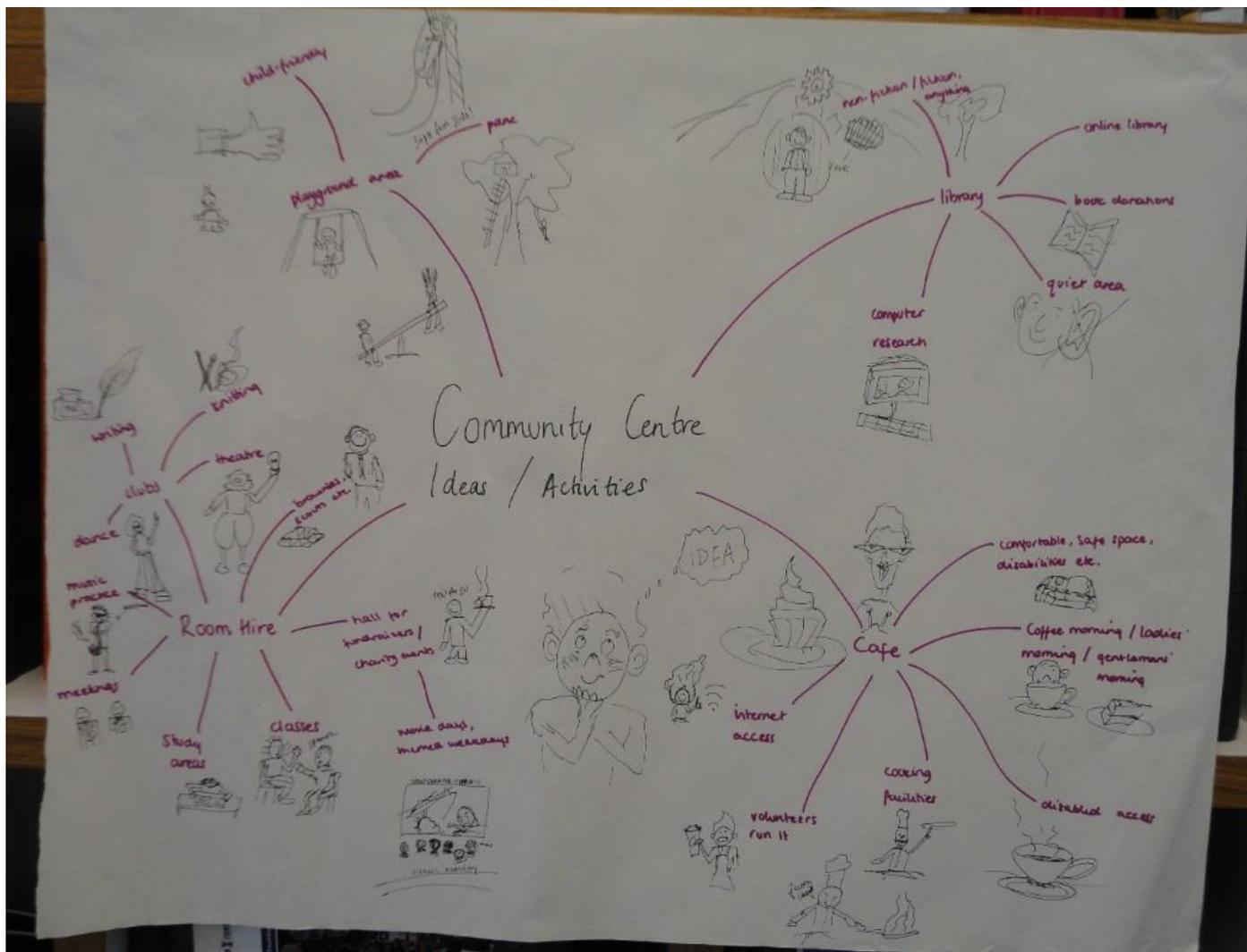
Cooking classes

Seniors giving classes to youth, learning useful skills, interaction of generations

Library

Quiet space, teachers to support pupils, multi-generational library

Sport facilities, café, playground, community fridge, wi-fi, gardening, rooms to rent



Key Ideas

Room hire

Different clubs, music practice, meetings, study area, classes, fundraising

Child friendly playground area Library

Online library, book donations, quiet area, computer research

Café

Internet access, ran by volunteers, coffee morning, cooking practice, comfortable space, access for disabled



Key Ideas

- community fridge
- cooking classes
- café
- internet access
- connection with The Junction
- multipurpose space for hire
- garden space
- community events
- educational groups
- stay environmentally conscious
- mental health support

Summary

Findings from the posters show that pupils were strongly in favour of different activities taking place at Victoria Primary School. Some of the regularly proposed activities were study support groups, cooking classes and fundraising/charity activities. Pupils also expressed their affection for different spaces, such as café, library, sports facilities and playgrounds. Access to the internet, co-operation with The Junction and climate change education were also highly prioritised.

www.pas.org.uk

Planning Aid for Scotland, known as PAS

Registered Address: 3rd Floor, 125 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4AD

Registered in Scotland SC143209. Registered Charity SC02133