

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 February 2024 16:59  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: PLUS (Forth Valley) Ltd.

----- Original Message -----

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 28th 2024, 16:52  
Subject: PLUS (Forth Valley) Ltd.

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in support of PLUS (Forth Valley) Ltd's asset transfer request to take over the family hub in Cornton which, I understand, is currently owned by the Scottish Prison Service.

I am a past treasurer and trustee of PLUS and have a granddaughter with Williams Syndrome who is supported by PLUS on a weekly basis which means a huge amount to my wife and myself as well as to her Mum and Dad and her 2 brothers who would be otherwise restricted in their own activities. I'm sure PLUS's application will detail the number of children and young adults with varied additional needs which they support throughout Forth Valley, but the huge effect it has on both families and the wider community cannot be overstated in providing a safe and stable environment for these young people to meet, socialise, and explore their potential.

Their current premises are less than ideal, being in an industrial estate which is largely empty after 6 pm and this makes evening and weekend sessions problematic. My understanding is that they are in constant threat of eviction as there is no term on their current lease. The building itself could best be described as a large hut and not ideally suited for the activities undertaken. In fact, other venues (e.g. the Scout hut at Beechwood) are used on a regular basis, adding to operational difficulties as well as costs. Should their application be successful, it would make a huge difference to both their security and ability to operate.

Cuts in local government funding seem inevitable and Stirling Council are consulting on this topic, with threatened closures of libraries and, more importantly as far as PLUS and the families it supports are concerned, is the possibility, even probability, of reduced educational support for children with additional needs. It would appear, therefore, that an even greater burden will have to be taken up by PLUS and similar charities. These cuts will have a massive impact on the families involved and will inevitably lead to increased demand on the services PLUS provides. This asset transfer will enable PLUS to better provide that support and will lead to community benefits far beyond the immediate benefits to the young people themselves and to their families.

I apologise for going on a bit, but PLUS is very dear to my family and I do feel this potential move would be of great benefit to both their sustainability and to their ability to provide support and a safe environment in which these vulnerable young people can meet together and respite offered to families.

I ask that the Prison Service look favourably on their application as I think this move would be hugely beneficial to them and to the fantastic work they do.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.