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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 February 2024 23:19  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Community asset transfer

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing with regard to the community asset transfer of Cornton Vale's family hub to one of two local charities. As a Cornton resident of 20 years and a member of the Cornton Action Planning Partnership I am fully in support of an asset transfer of the building. There is a chronic shortage of affordable property suitable for charitable and community use in Stirling, and very few employment or volunteering opportunities within the Cornton Community itself. Cornton is an area of multiple deprivation and many community members struggle to travel outwith the area for employment and training. Buildings designed and suitable for children, young people and families to use are also very rare and therefore it is my personal view that the building could have a truly impactful use supporting the services run by PLUS Forth Valley. PLUS provides a lifeline to children and adults with disabilities and requires a dedicated playroom space, outdoor space, storage, office and kitchen facilities to operate. The hub fits this brief wonderfully. PLUS also provides volunteering opportunities, entry level employment, flexible employment and excellent training to its team of volunteers and sessional staff which will be of true benefit to the Cornton community.

I understand that a handful of community members have raised concerns about car parking and noise. I do not share these concerns because the staffing levels at PLUS come nowhere close to a tenth of the volume of staff at the Prison, so would barely touch the sides of the car parking facilities and are in no way comparable to the prison shift changes that residents have been used to. I have had the privilege of spending time in PLUS sessions in the past and know that the groups of service users attending at any one time are small and time limited due to the specialised nature of support provided and are therefore very unlikely to have a significant noise impact on the immediate neighbours.

PLUS have just been served notice on the rental premises they have worked from for years which makes their request all the more urgent. Their services supporting children and adults with disabilities in having a social life, in accessing specialist after school care and weekend care that enables parents and carers to work and have respite, and in supporting families, are therefore in jeopardy. I have watched their extensive networking campaign to find a suitable new premises fail (they have in any case been searching for a better designed premises for years) and they are faced with folding or trying to run specialist services and a staff team from a mish mash of village halls, and trying to find storage and office space elsewhere. This is simply not suitable for the needs of the families they serve and as a charity manager who runs a small, remote staff team for another charity, I can't imagine the challenges of running PLUS's staff team and services remotely. My charity is also a Stirling Council Approved Provider for disability services and we attend monthly meetings with the council in which statistics are shared that baldly state that there are NOT ENOUGH respite services for families with a disabled member in Stirling and surround. To lose PLUS, which has an extensive waiting list in its own right, would be a disaster.

In the family hub PLUS could run cohesive and impactful services with all their resources in one place, complete with specialist facilities like a sensory room and private meeting rooms. The building would be an incredible resource that secured the future of the charity and its

services for the families that rely on them. With the added benefit to the community of significant employment, training and volunteering opportunities a 5 minute walk from hundreds of homes. I strongly feel this purpose designed family hub could be repurposed to the greater good for both the Cornton Community and the disability community in Stirling by transferring the prison hub to PLUS.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]