

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 February 2024 16:17
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: PLUS Forth Valley Community Asset Transfer.

Dear [REDACTED]

I write in support of PLUS' acquisition of the former family hub at Cornton under the Community Asset Transfer scheme.

I have known of PLUS for about 30 years through various aspects of my professional life as a teacher, Headteacher and Education Officer. I am currently one of the Vice Chairs of the Board of Trustees. I joined the Board when I retired.

As a result, I have extensive knowledge of the work PLUS do.

I know from my work with families that the social experiences through group and individual support at PLUS are often the only ones the children and young adults have outside the family and education. In addition this provides much needed respite for families allowing them to continue to manage. I have repeatedly heard families say the support from PLUS has helped them to continue to care for their children when they were coming to the point of exhaustion and potential family breakdown. Families told me during the early stages of the pandemic that PLUS was the only service in touch with them. The hub will provide suitable premises from which they can deliver this much needed service.

PLUS staff regularly attended children's planning meetings and worked cooperatively with education staff at both operational and strategic levels. I know from experience that they continue to work collaboratively and very successfully, with other services including social work. They are highly respected by local authority officers.

Being successful in acquiring the hub will present a fantastic opportunity, for them to develop their services for this extremely vulnerable group of children, young adults and their families.

The children and young adults' needs are complex and they require suitable premises. They need to be accessible, in the widest sense, flexible and adaptable to the range of needs of those who attend PLUS. The recent difficulty with the lease on the current premises, now thankfully if temporarily resolved, reinforced the lack of suitable premises in the area.

PLUS would make very good use of the building in its present form most weeks of the year it would be in use 7 days a week and has exciting plans to develop it over time. The outside area would also be very well used providing opportunities for children who are often restricted in their access to the outdoors.

PLUS as an organisation has an open and inclusive ethos with many innovative ideas about developing our work in the community. This will include developing links with the prison service as appropriate.

While I obviously hope PLUS are successful in their quest to acquire the hub whatever the outcome, I am very glad the premises are going to be used for the good of vulnerable families no matter which organisation is successful.

Thank you for reading this.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)