

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 February 2024 05:45
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Community Asset Transfer Representation

Hi there

I'm reaching out to provide a representation in response to the Community Asset Transfer Request made for the former Family Hub at Cornton Vale in Stirling.

I have known Support for Families in a professional capacity for nearly 15 years.

Although it's a relatively small community organisation, S4F truly goes above and beyond to meet the many unique needs of local individuals, families, and groups and I continue to be impressed with the overall hard work, commitment, and empathy of its staff, Board, and volunteers. I know that the organisation has long sought to move into a larger facility so that it could expand its services in order to better meet the needs of the local community and the community asset transfer for which they've applied gives them a unique opportunity to achieve this goal and would enable them to essentially offer a 'one stop shop' in which local people can go to a single location to access a wide range of beneficial services designed to meet their unique, changing needs and improve their overall lives.

Their management team has developed an exciting development plan full of inclusive services that would provide considerable value to the community and the unique people within, regardless of their age and abilities, financial background, additional support needs, ethnicity, religion, gender or other identifying category. Additionally, as S4F has already developed extensive community connections with local people, community groups, organisations, and agencies, as part of its overall work within the community for 25+ years, it would be able to seamlessly transition into the new facility and immediately begin running services. I myself have a lot of connections to the Cornton area and know from first-hand conversations that many local people are excited for this opportunity and believe that S4F is the best organisation to take control of the asset, especially considering its long-standing connections to the community.

In short, I truly believe that enabling S4F to take control of the asset will provide maximum value to the local community, especially when in competition with an organisation that only supports a small portion of the population. I appreciate that the deciding Board may perhaps have a small concern that S4F itself has focussed on supporting specific groups in its past; however, I do not think that there is an equivalency here from my external viewpoint, particularly when considering how S4F's current small facility has limited the number/range of services it can provide, therefore focussing the organisation's past provision on supporting the community's most vulnerable and marginalised groups. It's additionally worth emphasising that the community asset S4F is seeking to take over lies within the Cornton community that it has supported for 25+ years whilst the competing organisation works throughout the Forth Valley area.

Supporting S4F to take over control of the asset will again therefore enable it to further increase and diversify its services in order to better meet the many unique and changing needs of local community members. In reflecting on this, it's worth pointing out the significant financial and socio-economic challenges impacting the local area and the many ways that S4F helps community members to overcome such challenges, including a heavy focus on early intervention work which aims to not only improve the respective outcomes of the specific individuals supported but also create positive community change that improves the overall outcomes for all community members. In this connection, S4F appears to seek to further strengthen and expand its partnerships with organisations like Forth Valley Inclusion, which currently runs family support services at the new prison facility, as well as with the new prison facility itself as this would, in particular, enable the organisation, prison facility, and other key community groups/organisations to link together and provide a more coordinated and community-wide support plan, further improving the longer-term outcomes of the local area and people within. This again highlights the highly valuable and unique opportunities that S4F can offer the community should it take over this valuable asset.

It is highly unlikely that another such facility will be available in the Cornton community or nearby area in the near future, particularly one that is in such good quality as the one being decided upon here, making the decision to award the facility to S4F or the competing organisation vital to the overall health and future of the community and I truly believe that S4F will provide the most value to the community both in the immediate and long-term future.

Thank you for giving people an opportunity to offer insight into one or both of the organisations seeking this community asset and I wish you all the best in making this important decision.

Best Wishes

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.