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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 29 February 2024 12:17  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Asset Transfer Request. Forth Valley PLUS

As an ex Trustee/Board member of Forth Valley PLUS I write in support of their submission for the Asset Transfer request for the 'Family Hub' in Cornton, Stirling.

PLUS has been providing a range of services to children and young people with additional needs in Forth Valley since 1988. The organisation was initially set up by parents to provide their children, with an ordinary and inclusive a life as possible. When asked to become a Board member some ten years ago I was extremely impressed that the organisation had really stuck to the ethos and culture which they had developed, and provided the children and young people services which were very much inclusive and met their needs. Over and above one of the principles of PLUS was the inclusion of the parents in the services being delivered. This was highlighted to me in the make up of the Board which includes a number of parents. This I believe is important in ensuring that the founding ethos of the organisation has continued.

I am of the view that if PLUS were successful with the Asset Transfer it would make a major difference in how they operate. For a number of years PLUS have been looking for alternative premises to the one they operate out of at present. Whilst the existing premises are functional, my view is that it they are not fit for purpose for a progressive organisation such as PLUS. By being able to re locate to the Cornton there would be a number of benefits. Instead of being located in the middle of an Industrial Estate that by being in the Cornton it would be much easier to access for the children, young people, their parents and also staff and others visiting such as social workers and other professionals. It would also mean the service being in an area whereby they could be part of the community. Something which would make the service more inclusive, which is one of its primary aims. By being more visible in the community I believe PLUS would be able to forge links in that community which would have positive benefits for both the organisation and the local community.

Since its inception in 1988 PLUS has provided a range of services to many families throughout the region. During my involvement with PLUS it was evident from the feedback from parents and carers that the organisation made a massive difference to their child's life. By the provision of these services it has meant that many families are able to continue to care for their son or daughter at home. In my view, if PLUS had not been an option many families would have struggled, resulting in some children being received into care. This is obviously of great benefit to those involved but also to the wider community and society in general. Local Social Work and Education are also of the view that PLUS provides an invaluable service for families.

Despite the challenges which PLUS have faced in their present accommodation they have delivered some of the services in the building which the children and the young people have very much enjoyed and it was evident to see how they developed and grew by this provision. This has continued, and I am of the view that the service that they receive from a very committed work force would be greatly enhanced by being in new premises in a community setting.

I very much support this request.

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