

09/02/18

Proposed use of the Waterside Community Building – Positive Action in the Community(PAC)

Proposal for use

We propose that on taking occupancy of the Waterside building we would meet a local need by extending the sites from which we can deliver our highly utilised and in demand services. This is because the two buildings we currently occupy in Pendle are not amenable to open access to the general public, as our building on Leeds Rd accommodates vulnerable young people and our office for our domestic abuse services is limited in size and is attached to the refuge which also accommodates vulnerable people. We currently struggle to source cost effective spaces within the community where we can deliver group support, drop in sessions or meet with vulnerable clients outside their homes.

We would intend, and believe that the use of the Waterside community building by PAC would provide a safe environment for all potential and current service users to receive support in a community based setting that is accessible and safe.

Support we intend of providing from this venue will include;

- Drop in Services for support and signposting
- Programmes of group support (e.g. domestic abuse recovery programmes, tenancy support programmes, emotional health and wellbeing programmes)
- A venue to complete initial assessments and deliver one to one support sessions
- Providing a location where service users can wait whilst accommodation is sourced (in situations where there is crisis homelessness or families flee in an emergency and cannot return to the home)
- Term time youth club and activity days during the school holidays for our youth people's domestic abuse services
- Other youth based activities on an as and when basis.
- Space for multi-agency support meetings for the service users / organisations supporting service users.

We would also like to utilise the space for delivery of training and awareness raising activities for local organisations and the community throughout the year.

Potential future use

We are currently developing a peer support programme (peers who have experienced domestic abuse / homelessness supporting other people in similar positions – developing community capacity) as a step down from our support, and would see this as a potential venue for delivery.

We are also currently applying for funding to increase physical activity / sport engagement for our service users. As this venue is placed next to a MUGA it would also be an ideal venue to deliver sports / activity sessions from.

We are also looking at capacity for volunteering opportunities for young people, and consider that this venue could support the idea further.

We are also conducting a scoping exercise for the demand for youth provision in the Pendle area, as we know services were previously delivered from the community centre, and also that general youth provision has significantly reduced throughout Pendle. We would like to understand the demand and needs of young people to see if new services are required, and in what format and for our charity to respond accordingly.

User group(s)

Our service users would include;

- Children and adults affected by domestic abuse (all ages)
- Young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Socially excluded people (all ages) from the local community.
- General public to increase their awareness and access to our charitable services
- Local support organisations for multi-agency delivery of support / access to training

We would like to ensure that the building is known as somewhere people can access our support and help, whilst remaining discreet as to the specific reason why people would attend there (i.e. maintaining our vulnerable service user's anonymity of reasons for accessing the centre). By using the centre for a range of activities and purposes as a true community resource, we believe that we can meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of our community as well as the general public.

Fees / charges

We do not intend to charge any fees to service users.

We would though, like to explore the potential of renting spaces to other groups where appropriate for events or specific purposes.

Use of the building

Ideally we would like to have exclusive use of the building to ensure that the building access is maximised and can be safely managed. We envisage that we would utilise the building Mon – Fri between the hours of 10 – 7pm, and on occasional weekends

If this is not possible we would like to have access at least 2 -3 days a week for our current provision needs.

Garage building adjacent to the building

Ideally we would also like to make use of the garage for the following purposes;

- Storage of donations of small furniture items (e.g. small drawers, chairs, high chairs, suitcases, cutlery, crockery, pans) to assist those in housing need / moving on from our homeless accommodation / safehouses.
- Storage of small amounts of personal donations such as clothing, shoes, toiletries – to distribute to service users in need.
- Storage of low value activity equipment e.g. sports equipment, games

Ongoing support from PAC

Whilst we do still need to understand the ongoing financial commitments if we were to be offered use of the building, we are very keen to commit further support for our proposal and are happy to look at any option available in terms of occupancy / management / ownership. As part of this commitment we would also envisage that if we were offered use of the building, that we would evaluate the impact, delivery, attendance and community engagement at agreed periods to assess the viability and ongoing needs identified as priorities for the local community. As a growing, local and sustained charity we feel we are in

an ideal position to seek and secure future funding to maximise the centres use and benefit to Pendle.

We look forward to hearing from you soon, and would be very happy to discuss our proposals in more detail.