

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 February 2024 14:41
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Venture Trust support for Asset Transfer for Support 4 Families

Importance: High

Dear [REDACTED]

I'm getting in touch to lend my support for the asset transfer of the former family hub at HMP Cornton Vale from SPS ownership to Support 4 Families, an outstanding grassroots charity that has been working to support some of the most vulnerable families in Stirling for over 20 years.

It's no great surprise that the need for community-based support has never been greater. The demand for family support services has risen significantly in recent years, not least due to the cost-of-living crisis and sharp increase in post-pandemic serious mental health challenges. Charities like Support 4 Families have played a vital role at the frontline of family support in the heart of the Stirling community, operating their service on a shoestring but delivering impactful outcomes for families. Whilst the charity are doing their very best, the potential to elevate their reach and impact is being hindered by their location and their current premises – it's fair to say they have outgrown their existing space and in moving into the former family hub in the Cornton community, they will be able to reach more children, more young people and support and increased number of families to overcome the challenges they face on a daily basis and reach their potential.

As [REDACTED] of Venture Trust, a national charity with a long history of supporting people, many of whom have experience of the justice system, I am delighted to lend my support to an organisation who is working so hard to make a difference in Stirling to reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), to provide support in a trauma-informed way and who are such willing partners, keen to collaborate with others (including the SPS and Venture Trust) who can help them drive positive, lasting change - for individuals, for families and whole communities.

The support provided by Support 4 Families is unique and wide-ranging and includes counselling, whole family support, therapeutic services, children-specific support and the provision of a helpline. Having more space will enable the charity to deliver even more opportunities for safe, therapeutic play and social activities which are essential in supporting children and young people as they develop or learn to heal from trauma. The grounds and kitchen space has the potential to enable the building to become a focal point for the community – where families can learn how to cook nutritious meals in line with their household income. A move to the new building would enable them to offer this and more to an increased number of people, beginning in the Cornton community. As someone who has established a similar service to this in the Lochend area of Edinburgh, which galvanised a whole community around a small community garden space – the potential has no limits.

I am aware that a decision will be reached soon in relation to the asset transfer, and I hope that the SPS will give **serious consideration** to awarding this to Support 4 Families as I believe it will only lead to good things, which is what we are all working towards.

Many thanks for taking the time to consider my email.

Very best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted] | Tel [Redacted]

www.venturetrust.org.uk

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