

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 February 2024 19:02  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Application to purchase building by PLUS Forth valley

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am emailing regarding the possibility of 'PLUS Forth Valley' purchasing the 'Family Hub' currently owned by the Prison Service.

It is my belief that purchasing this building would provide security and reassurance to many families across Forth Valley and would allow PLUS to extend their service in a safe and purposeful way.

On a personal note PLUS has been an absolute lifeline for my family. As a new Mum to a child with additional needs I felt lost and alone. It has been said that when you have a child with additional needs you go through a grieving process and this is very much the case. Although I had many friends and a supportive family I knew nobody else who was experiencing what I was going through. The first time I attended Play and Chat I felt such relief to meet other parents in the same situation as myself. Through this group I made friends who have supported me for the last 10 years and I met the staff at PLUS who have always been there for help and advice and who adore my daughter. As my daughter got older she was able to access more of PLUS's facilities and now attends group sessions and has a 1:1. I can't tell you how much this means to my daughter and our family. My daughter says that PLUS is where her 'true friends are'. She doesn't have proper friends in her peer group at school and PLUS allows her to feel like other 13 year olds. My daughter is too vulnerable to go out alone or with other children her age and PLUS provides independence from us but in an entirely safe environment.

If PLUS were successful in purchasing the building I think it would allow them the confidence to concentrate on expanding the service offered safe in the knowledge that they could actually provide the services. I also think that people would be keen to fundraise to adapt areas for use as sensory rooms etc as these could be permanent features and there wouldn't be a risk of being evicted at short notice. From a service user point of view I think it would reduce anxiety about the future. My daughter had heard about the upcoming forced move and was very concerned about the future of PLUS and what that might mean for her. Continuity is essential for many children with additional support needs.

In terms of community benefits PLUS offers I think that the volunteering and job opportunities offered are extremely important. I am from a healthcare background and it cannot be underestimated how beneficial experiences with ASN are to job and university applications. PLUS also encourages inclusion within local groups which is so important as it reduces discrimination and gives our children confidence.

I believe if PLUS are successful in their application that acquiring this building will allow the expansion of a much needed service. With services being cut and the number of activities available for people with ASN rapidly deteriorating PLUS is an essential part of ASN care within Forth Valley.

Many thanks for considering my email,

[REDACTED]