

Community Co-Working Hub

This project aims to create a Community Co-Working Hub in an under-used space at St. Faith's Community Centre. The co-working hub will offer 8 workstations and a meeting room for existing and future user groups, local small businesses and charities as well as freelancers.

The Outcome

Connecting people

Currently, St. Faith's Community Centre offers meeting spaces for 23 different user groups, and 1200 members use the Centre weekly. This is a huge feat and a great asset to the community. However, the large turnover of users means that at times there is a lack of focus in the Centre. To counterbalance this, we are aiming to form a more permanent space in the Centre for users and user groups. The aim is for users to develop ownership of the space and feeling part of the centre. We believe that creating a co-working space will best achieve this. The co-working hub will connect people who previously worked in the Centre together but previously never met. It will become a place for innovation, co-operation and community. We hope that occasional users will now be able to become permanent and have more influence in shaping the Centre.

Effectively converting underused space for community use

The rooms that will be converted are being used intermittently as storage, makeshift offices, waiting rooms and meeting rooms by user groups already. However, this is not very effective because it was not possible to charge rent for these neglected spaces in dire need of renovation. To use this space properly will greatly enhance the general outlook and feel of the building and make it lively and inviting to all who use it.

Through the co-working hub, the Centre will be able to generate an income that will sustain its services and make it independent of external funding sources which it previously relied on but which have been continuously reduced and will most probably be cut altogether soon. The aim is to generate revenue that will be returned fully into the running of the Centre, such as funding youth worker salaries and our subsidised holiday club as well as our fabric fund.

Sustainability of St. Faith's Community Centre

The development of the co-working hub is part of a wider plan to develop St. Faith's Community Centre and lead it to self-sustainability. First steps towards this plan have already been taken. For example, the installation of solar panels on the roof which significantly reduce electricity bills; they enable the Centre to use its own energy during daytime, which is its busiest time. Any income generated is put back into the running of the Centre, to keep rents affordable for charities and community groups and to support the Centre's community and youth work.