

Manchester City Council
PO Box 532.
Town Hall Extension
Manchester
M60 2LA.

7.12.23
Ref: AH/01/FSS

Dear Sir/Madam,

Cover Letter

Re. Old school area 599 Ashton New Rd, Manchester M11 4HA

The Manchester Public Health Team commission and fund the integrated drug and alcohol service for Manchester, delivered by 'Change, Grow, Live' (CGL). CGL provide specialist substance misuse support to Manchester citizens, across the life course, to reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol, and work together with partners in supporting individuals to access the treatment they need to reduce dependency and promote recovery. The service includes assessment, information and advice, treatment and referral, and is delivered from 5 bases across the city, in the North, Central and South as well as in-reach to a number of community assets.

The proposal is to establish a CGL behaviour change wellbeing offer in Clayton, adjoining the Resonance Centre, (Hollinwood Workshop, Clayton Street, M11 4HA) in East Manchester. The Resonance Centre is a well-being hub based on connection and social inclusion. The Centre provides activities, classes and services designed to benefit the mental and physical well-being of local residents in East Manchester. Their primary focus is yoga, meditation, movement, nutritional guidance, sound healing and breath work. The venue has also become home to a variety of community groups accessing art classes, adult drama, book clubs, walking groups and sober raves, therefore providing a good synergy between the type of activities and interventions offered by The Resonance Centre and Change Grow Live.

The opportunity is to rent 3343 square feet and refurbish this space, utilising OHID grant funding for 2024/25 (subject to approval) to develop the space to a standard that might not otherwise be possible without the additional grant funded investment. The proposed space is not currently being utilised by the Resonance Centre other than for social events in the evening. The site borders the main road directly opposite the Clayton Metrolink stop and is on a main road and bus route providing permeability and ease of access. There is a community pharmacy close to the rear of the centre that already provides substance misuse services for Manchester. The proposal is to: -

- Provide safe, suitable, psychologically informed environments for Manchester citizens and staff across the Manchester service.
- Develop service buildings, partnership arrangements and spaces that will meet the projected and targeted demand of the drug strategy and support the improvements in quality, requested within the drug strategy.

- Provide buildings/spaces in areas of the city where there is greater need, reducing the travel required for those using services and improving the place-based service offer.
- Improve and develop the focus on wellbeing and 'behaviour change', with the possibility to deliver 'Be Smoke Free' and Family Drug and Alcohol Court work within services.
- Greater integration with local support systems such as peer support programmes like Alcoholics Anonymous, releasing free space for community participation and increasing the services social value offer as part of the broader contract.
- Continue development work moving towards a 'neighbourhood approach' across the city. Working alongside other professionals within the 'Bringing Services Together' public service reform ethos, approaches, and structures, such as MAPS, MAMS, Prevention Hubs, and Integrated Neighbourhood Teams spanning Health and Social Care.
- Reduce the impact of health inequalities

The building would require significant refurbishment, outlined in the application that subject to approval, would provide a unique opportunity to invest in high quality service provision in East Manchester, without the financial burden impacting on financial envelope of the service contract of Public Health. It is of note that the Canarvon Street base is no longer an appropriate environment to meet the needs of our treatment population, in terms of space for citizens and staff, and the quality of the environment and as such, the grant funded investment provides a timely intervention for the service.

In summary, the proposal is for an eventual de-commission of Canarvon Street, creating a new psychologically informed therapeutic environment within the heart of East Manchester, that will support individuals to access the help they need, improve accessibility by reducing the burden of travel and create a 'hub' for substance use behaviour change and early intervention.

This application has the support of the local Councillors, businesses and residents.

If you require any further information or have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

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