



Space4U

Vision

Over the past few months, we have been developing a lot of work to determine the future and direction of Space 4. It has been particularly important to understand why we exist, who we exist for and what we wish to achieve over the next three years.

This document gives a simple overview of the project set over three years, which has received funding from the lottery “Reaching Communities”

Priorities






Through our recent work with the community we have identified the following priorities:

1. Working together creatively to respond to food poverty

2. Responding to isolation & anxiety particularly among the elderly and those who feel marginalized

3. Working with our community to respond to inequalities particularly those affecting children and young people

Throughout the three priorities there is also an overarching aim to create a sustainable income for Space 4. Therefore, each area has the potential of an income stream attached to it. The idea is to develop the income stream through several outlets as follows:

-  Donations (donation stations in each hub/area)
-  Development of a community café
-  Income from Arts and Crafts (“made by us” project)
-  Income from purchases at our social supermarket (Food Cupboard)
-  Possible Income from subletting Newbottle Street premises (subject to lease) for birthday parties etc.

Objectives

Our objectives as an organisation are to expand on the delivery of the things we are good at. Firstly, one of the main successes in Space 4 is the ongoing development of our foodbank. This has grown in both delivery of food but also in our communications with the customers that access this service.

Secondly, we have shown to be resilient through this time, particularly in moving our creative activities online. We have evidence to suggest that we can keep a good connection with community members.

Thirdly, there is a major asset in the creative talents throughout the organization, particularly in terms of crafts.

Throughout our meetings and discussions, we have established that we need to move from need based community project to an asset-based project. We also need to develop a robust monitoring and evaluation of the project on an ongoing basis. Therefore, an overview of our objectives for the next three years are as follows:

- To further listen to our community through facility and Community Builders
- To find ways of empowering the community through projects established by the community builders' team (to be established)
- To facilitate change and progress in the community
- measuring our success against agreed targets and milestones
- Document the project at every stage
- To gather feedback from our customers
- To document stories and case studies
- To evaluate and gain a social impact report in year two (to understand in impact and financial terms)
- To advertise and shout about the project. To create a marketing and communications program
- To create and establish a yearly fundraising program (CB program)

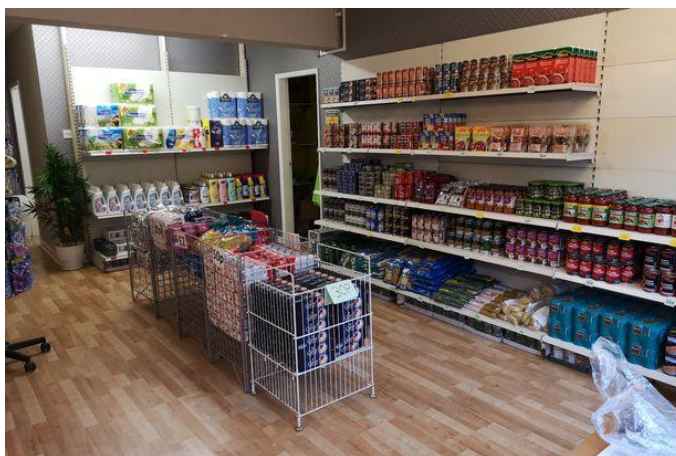
A Picture of the future

1. Working together creatively to respond to food poverty

- To further support both the community and space 4 as a charity will be to create a social supermarket (food store) for those who are on low incomes but wish to purchase choice items. This area of the project tackles two issues, food hunger and food waste. In the food industry 1.9 million tons of food are wasted each year. The food cupboard would collect food that would normally be thrown away and sell it to the community at a low cost or customers pay a set price for an amount of items. For example, £3.50 for ten items. This food would also serve the café area with stocks for low-cost meals. Café will be established in year 2 of the project.
- Food would be distributed to those in need and food bags would still be available for those who cannot pay; however, more robust monitoring of this will be implemented including a referral system. Food provision will also be incorporated in conjunction with meal programs and supported healthy eating programs that improve food security, and nutrition among the people we serve, educate the public about the problems of hunger, and advocates for legislation that protects people from going hungry.

The food cupboard would continue to serve families, children, seniors, and those at risk of going hungry through continued deliveries.

The Cupboard would also incorporate stations or drop of points for the public to donate food, which would be advertised through marketing and communications. There is also some work to be done on partnering with local supermarkets and food outlets for further donations of excess stock.



The Café

- In conjunction with the Food Store and the donations received we would create in the first instance a lunch/breakfast café for those needing hot meals. This would further develop into a café area and would also be used for any of the wider community. This would enable us to further engage with community and begin to create an income for Space 4.

The café would be facilitated by volunteers and overseen by an operational manager and food store/cafe coordinator. To allow us to keep outgoings low this facility would operate simply in the first instance, serving simple hot meals/sandwiches and coffee and cake, and has the potential to develop as a community cafe.

- In terms of further sustainability and based on what we “do well” Crafts would also be sold from the café area made by members of space4. This would be as and when crafts are available and would mean that participants could take real ownership of a small project and have their work on display.



- Further help for foodbank and cafe customers would be to provide an offer of well being and food related workshops and recipe cards promoting healthy eating. There would also be an opportunity to provide a family area for mother/father toddler areas. The area can also be used to sell arts and crafts items that are made already by our group, which again created potential for further income.

2. Responding to isolation & anxiety particularly among the elderly and those who feel marginalized

- Responding to this priority we would set up a program of creative, educational, and social workshops based at Newbottle street hubs. We would continue to offer the drop-in sessions, however, have more structured workshops throughout the week plus evenings and weekends.
- There is a limitless supply of workshops that can be done that reduces isolation, increases peoples learning and increases individual's ability to access the job market or education
- The hub would also be equipped with technology and computer systems which can be accessed throughout the program workshops
- To further increase sustainable income the hub could also be used for birthday parties and hired to other groups for a fee (depending on lease restrictions)



3. Working with our community to respond to inequalities particularly those affecting children and young people

- To offer resources of technology for community to access in the Newbottle street hub. Many families and young people have been identified as being in technology poverty. Lockdown has brought to light the digital divide in the UK with 1.9 million households with no access to the internet, and many more reliant on pay as you go.



- To produce a program of workshops and drop ins that promote creativity and wellbeing for children and adults, and to create community go to activities and resources, such as a petting area around church and kepieer, football activities etc (this would be developed within the scope of the Community Builders)



- In response to work we have been doing with local schools, uniform poverty has been specifically identified as a problem area. There is existing space in the Newbottle street hub to set up a second hand/recycled uniform shop, which would provide low-cost uniforms for families in need, would enhance our environmental offer and would create a small income for Space 4.



- As a response to children and families to offer there is potential to produce an allotments/petting area etc. Drawing people to the area of the café would also create potential for income. This is just an idea at this stage and is subject to further funding.

Village Voice (Community Builders Team)

One of the main aspects of this three-year plan is to enable us to listen, respond and use the skills, gifts, and talents of our community. An efficient way to do this is to set up a program of Community Builders that would work closely with community in each area of our offers and priority areas. To act as a catalyst through building relationships that enable people to act together for the common good creating more resilient communities.

Their roles would be as follows

- Identifies community assets and resources
- Listens widely to adults and young people of all backgrounds within the community to understand more about people's lives and how they feel about their community
- Supports motivated individuals to transform ideas into action for the benefit of themselves and others.
- Identifies and encourages people who are natural connectors and natural leaders within the community
 - Advocates for the community or underrepresented aspects of the community
 - Maintains awareness of opportunities for communities to be more engaged and have influence over what happens in their communities.
 - Encourage participation in such initiatives and/or enable for community members to co-design their own initiatives.
 - Actively markets and promotes the programme within communities
 - Collects evidence of outputs and outcomes, ensuring consistent implementation of the monitoring and evaluation process.
 - Support fundraising and income generation.



Outcomes

- Community activity and provision is mapped
- People are listened to and engaged
- Increased activity is happening within the community
- People, groups and organisations are being linked creating a more connected community

