

PROPOSAL FORM

#GlasgowCommunities

PEOPLE
MAKE
GLASGOW
COMMUNITIES

SECTION C: YOUR PROPOSAL

Name of building / venue / facility

Fairfield Farm Site, Elder Park; (Also known as Elder Park depot)

Name of your organisation

Glasgow City Mission

Please provide details of the legal status of your organisation

Charity (please provide Charity No if applicable)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	We are a charity (SC001499) limited by guarantee (SC140322)
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Company Ltd by Guarantee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Community Club/ Sports Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (please specify)		

Do you have a formal constitution/ governance documents?

(please provide a copy)

YES ☒ NO ☐

Glasgow City Mission Memorandum of Understanding attached.

Tell us about your proposal for the building/ venue/ facility and how you see this operating. Provide some detail as to why your organisation is well placed to deliver the benefits that will flow from the proposal.

Glasgow City Mission has been serving vulnerable people in the city for almost 200 years. In Govan specifically, we have been working with children and families since 1987 during which time we have been steadily building strong community relationships.

The Little Branches nursery enjoys an excellent reputation in Linthouse and Drumoyne, working in partnership with Glasgow City Council. In recent years our work has expanded significantly and now includes activities for children of all ages and their families. This valuable work has had a positive impact on countless lives through the years and we are now serving the second generation of attendees. We continue to deepen our relationships in our local community and consider this proposed development and expansion as pivotal in helping to serve this historically deprived area.

The proximity of Elder Park to our family centre on St Kenneth Drive has been a wonderful resource for many years, not least during the pandemic when we moved many of our activities outdoors. Even prior to this, our nursery children enjoyed the park on a daily basis.

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Moreover, in July 2020 and 2021 we held a month-long family holiday club in the park, which engaged with almost 300 local people. We believe that developing the Elder Park Farm site will enable work like this to expand in new and exciting ways.

In order to enhance our offering to the community, we are seeking a lease on the site. The old farmhouse cottage, located in the centre of the south edge, is grade 2 listed and in a considerable state of dereliction. We have no ambitions that include the farmhouse specifically and a perimeter safety fence around it would be required. We would welcome the opportunity to work alongside a heritage agency who may view the farmhouse as a separate project. This may become more likely as development of the whole site gets underway. Our proposal focusses on the ground surrounding the farmhouse, excluding the building itself.

The site, which takes in the area of hardstanding within the walled section of the premises, is approximately one acre and would need developed in manageable phases. After clearing the site, the first phase would involve the creation of an outdoor space for learning. One key strand of the Scottish Government's Health & Social Care standards focusses on a child's right to play outdoors every day and when they choose. We seek to expand that opportunity for our children by adopting an Outdoor Education approach. This would require play equipment that use natural resources, such as timber and trees, which encourage children to engage with the outside environment. For this first phase we anticipate the need for a small scale storage unit, an outdoor children's toilet facility and perhaps a 3-sided outdoor shelter or canopy at minimum. This will provide a secure and safe facility for all children in our 600-hours Nursery service.

The next phase would involve extending the development area and the opportunity for other family groups to engage. There is adequate space for community gardening projects with raised beds which would enable children and their families to learn and participate in growing food. There could be space for community events, barbecues, activities for dads & lads, bushcraft activities and more. Such facilities could be an outstanding community asset for Linthouse and Govan.

If the demand for our services continue to grow after we've established these facilities, Glasgow City Mission would explore the potential to construct a more substantial base of operation on the site. This would be a family community centre, which would offer an excellent resource for decades to come. We would be looking to secure a sufficiently lengthy lease so as to give comfort when considering such a sizeable investment on the land.

We would undertake this work in consultation with local agencies and community groups. Glasgow City Mission would be the lease-holder and would develop and manage this community facility for and on behalf of the local area, with a special focus on children and families. The site is large enough to allow partnerships with other local groups which will permit us to further build on the high levels of goodwill within the locale. A Glasgow City Mission project on this land will give a base from which to nurture relationships so essential to the lifeblood of this traditionally tight community. We look forward to building on our proven

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track record by operating a service centred on integrity, trust, and with a beating heart for the people.

Tell us about the benefits that you expect to generate from this proposal and how these might meet an existing need. Will your proposal benefit the local community, a community of interest or both?

Thin communities result when people become divorced from meaningful connection whilst living in close proximity. Glasgow City Mission's Child and Family Centre seeks to address the poverty of meaningful connection by providing space, expertise and facility that encourages and promotes thick communities - that will nourish and enrich. A multi-generational approach, open to any and all, bridging old Govan and Linthouse residents with those newer to the city who are looking to put down roots, through providing a space where all can belong.

There is an extensive need for Family and Early Intervention work in the communities of Linthouse and Drumoyne. Both communities are ranked in the top decile of the SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) and 38% of children living in Govan are defined as living in poverty¹.

There is now an enormous body of evidence demonstrating that Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) have negative and lasting effects on health and wellbeing. Studies from the USA, England², Wales³ and Scotland⁴ have linked incidents of ACEs to many socio-economic and public health issues. These include higher rates of depression, use of violence, incarceration, substance misuse, poor performance at school, teenage pregnancy, and even future heart disease and homelessness.

In Scotland the situation is no less bleak, with a study showing that 65% of our children have 1+ ACEs by age of 8, compared to 52% in the USA, 47% in Wales and 46% in England. Sir Harry Burns uses research into the links between ACEs and reduced health outcomes to argue that early intervention is the best way forward. He urges that the correct place to expend resources is in giving positive help to people struggling to raise children. It is essential to create nurturing households, and local communities which are sustaining – giving members a concept of coherence. He says this is about something far more significant than health improvement – it is life improvement!

If we can't look after children and give them a proper kind of nurturing environment, then we are far from being a civilised society.

Glasgow City Mission has been working with vulnerable families in the area for over 30 years. We wish to continue to help parents who are struggling – equipping them with skills, knowledge and confidence to tackle the challenges they face. Support for children must

¹ <http://www.healthscotland.scot/media/1314/financial-inclusion-pathways-event-presentationspart2.pdf>

² <https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-016-2906-3>

³ <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/888/Wales%20Public%20Health%20Conference%20MAB%20Draft%20%5BRe.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.scphrp.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/The-Prevalence-of-Adverse-Childhood-Experiences-in-the-General-Population-of-Scottish-Children-in-the-first-8-years-of-life-.pdf>

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be given early, and investment in positive, nurturing outdoor experiences can aid in mitigating the effects of ACEs. Playing and learning outdoors benefits children in many ways. It improves physical health and wellbeing, enhances child development, and improves learning. Being outdoors offers children the opportunity to explore the natural environment, provides a sense of freedom, and offers exciting opportunities for challenge and to take risks.

We see our development of this site as benefitting three key groups:

1. **Pre-school children** – providing a valuable outdoor learning experience to develop their own free flow play activities and explore their natural environment to enhance their development. This will provide a rich stimulus for creativity, enquiry and problem solving. Improved mental, emotional and physical health, the development of language and communication skills, literacy and numeracy learning in meaningful contexts, awareness of sustainability, and connectedness with and an appreciation of nature.
2. **After school clubs** - for primary-aged children to enable them to explore and appreciate their natural environment. To help them learn new skills and use their greenspace responsibly, safely and demonstrate care for their community.
3. **Family Learning** - opportunities for parents/carers to bond with their children by working together and creating a focus with positive outcomes. A chance to help parents/carers develop healthy parenting skills; this maybe particularly appealing to fathers. A relaxed and fun way to learn with their child. We hope they will grow in confidence and skill as fathers, become more involved in their child's care and establish mutually affirming bonds with other male carers – leading to improved mental health.

Exploring the natural environment goes a long way in teaching sustainability if children are supported by adults who demonstrate care and environmental stewardship. Enjoying and learning how to use their greenspace responsibly and safely, looking after the environment and experiencing seasonal changes all help to encourage a connection between children and nature. It can actively encourage a child to consider other users and future generations.

Food growing activities involving children will encourage healthy eating. They are very likely to have pride in what they have grown and be encouraged to try new foods and flavours. We would also hope that this will increase the supply of fresh fruit and veg in the local community and research shows that community growing can reduce vandalism and littering – both of which are substantial and clearly evident at the site in its current un-used state.

Being outside in fresh air is beneficial, for some children it can be transformative. For children experiencing emotional and behavioural problems or struggling in a traditional formal setting, immersion in a natural setting can be therapeutic and release their potential.

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Perhaps above all this, we hope that all children and their parents who utilise the site learn how to have fun with one another, creating stronger family bonds.

What are your plans to generate sufficient income/ grants to be able to sustain the ongoing operating costs of the building/ venue/ facility?

Glasgow City Mission is a registered charity with a turnover of approximately £1.7m. Over 90% comes from direct funding with only around 5% from statutory sources. Our revenue has been increasing steady over the last ten years and has doubled in the last six. We have approximately 60 members of staff in three distinct projects – City Centre Project, Child and Family Centre in Govan and the Glasgow Overnight Welcome Centre.

In order to generate more income from general fundraising and grants we have bolstered our marketing and fundraising team from two to four people over the last two years. To raise our profile and widen our reach we now have a full time Digital Communications Officer. This allows us to tell our stories to a wider, and younger, audience and is having a positive impact on individual donations. The revenue from trusts has steadily risen over the last five years with the total of £380,000 in our last financial year. We anticipate this will continue to rise with the extra staff time allocated.

Tell us about any experience you have in managing a building/ venue/ facility.

We own and manage both our main buildings in the City Centre and in Govan. Our City Centre project is situated in a 6-storey modern building of around 10,000 square feet, from which we deliver multiple activities for vulnerable men and women in Glasgow as well providing a location for our administrative staff. Our Govan building is more modest being of a single storey and around 2,000 square feet, and houses our main activities for nursery children and their families.

Please provide us with any other information that you feel is relevant to your proposal.

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