



UPDATE ON CONSULTATION WITH USERS OF THE GROUND FLOOR OF ST LENNANS CENTRE

Report by Chief Officer for Education and Children's Services

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to update members on the progress in respect of consultation with current users of Pointers (ground floor of St Lennans) Centre following the proposal that the building be used for the Bairns Hoose Project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Following a Report to the February series of meetings, where the Bairns Hoose initiative was outlined, the Comhairle agreed to formally consult with current users of Pointers (ground floor of the St Lennans) Centre in relation to relocation to other facilities.
- 2.2 Since the February series of meetings the following steps have been taken with a view to securing alternative arrangements or accommodation for those currently accessing the Pointers Centre on North Beach Street:
 - Scoping out buildings which may provide an alternative venue for the current services including the Library Café; Town Hall; ELR Base and the Bridge Centre.
 - Engagement with the local MSYP
 - Engagement with the Bridge Board to seek an agreement in principle to house Pointers Services.
- 2.3 These options will be fully explored in the coming weeks and shared with young people and staff. This will be completed as part of a wider consultation on changes to the provisions which is scheduled to take place after the Easter break.
- 2.4 Comments and feedback from planning officers about the building and the proposed changes to accommodate Bairns House are yet to be considered.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 **It is recommended that the Comhairle note the Report.**

Contact Officer:	Fiona MacInnes-Begg
Appendix:	None
Background Papers:	Bairns Hoose Pathfinder Programme – Report – 6 February 2024 Minute of Comhairle – 15 February 2024

IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

Resource Implications	Implications/None
Financial	Costs are awaited from the Bridge Centre so financial implications are yet to be determined.
Legal	None
Staffing	None
Assets and Property	None
Strategic Implications	Implications/None
Risk	There is a risk that loss of provision could be detrimental.
Equalities	An equality impact assessment is not required at this stage because the Report is only seeking to commence informal consultation currently. This is a requirement of the next stage of consultation.
Corporate Strategy	Support Caring and Resilient Communities and Quality of Life: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Nurture the safety and resilience of our communities. (Youth Services)
Environmental Impact	None
Consultation	Consultation is planned for after the Easter break.

BACKGROUND

- 5.1 Following a Report to the February series of meetings where the Bairns Hoose initiative was outlined, the Comhairle agreed to formally consult with current users of Pointers (ground floor of the St Lennans) Centre in relation to relocation to other facilities. Plans to support the displacement of current users of the building were to be considered and shared with Elected Members.
- 5.2 A review of Comhairle owned buildings identified the Town Hall and the Library Café space as potential alternatives for current users of Pointers (ground floor of the St Lennans) Centre but neither could contain the majority of the service provision. These options have not been discounted as they may well be suitable for the needs of individual Groups.
- 5.3 An opportunity to explore the Bridge Centre as a venue was also identified and this proposal was taken to a meeting of the Bridge Board in March 2024. An agreement in principle was made at the meeting, and costings are currently being produced to allow full consideration of this option.

CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Committee are asked to note the progress being made to formally consult with current users of Pointers (ground floor of the St Lennans) Centre in relation to relocation to other facilities.