

## Appendix 1

### Comments from the Head of Inclusion Service

Youth Connect South West (YCSW) are a great organisation who support our more vulnerable and harder to engage young people. A lot of the young people that they work with would be NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) if they were not supported by these great workers. I would be very concerned if this Centre is not made available to YCSW as there are a lot of young people who rely on this, and the number is increasing. Without this base YCSW will not be able to deliver the programs outlined below to the detriment of these young people, some of which will then be NEET and others will need to be accommodated in expensive out of county specialist educational placements. These placements can cost between £50k - £100k and more if they are residential.

Radstock children's centre will be used to provide a base for the Alternative Education programmes including Learning 4 Work (L4W) and Partnership for Learning (P4L), these are commissioned education programs for young peoples with SEND aged 16 – 25 years old. All the young people have education health and care plans and present a range of varied and challenging issues, as well as bringing their amazing personal experiences and characters to the program. The need for these programmes is very high which is why in consultation with the SEND team YCSW has expanded the programme to meet local need, these programmes are important as they form a strong high quality local offer and reduce the need for more expensive placements.

The space will be used during the day for 24 students on L4W and more will access via P4L as necessary, it will provide a safe and secure base for young people who will take part in range of activities which will help the young person grow and develop, preparing them for adulthood, include vocational courses, mentoring, support, and advice, employability, and fun activities. Additional other young people will be able to access the space for groups as part of their programmes such as cooking.

The project will also be used in the daytime for individual and group work for other programs which include employability, targeted youth support and partnership for learning which is also an essential service commissioned by B&NES Council.

The centre will be used in the evening to deliver open access and targeted group work to young people afterschool and evening. The youth work is commissioned by Radstock Town Council and provides a curriculum-based program of activity and issues. The program works with young people so they can benefit from the safe space, they are able to socialise with their friends, learn and try new activities, have positive discussions. The youth workers act as positive role models and can become the trusted adult in their lives.

I believe the centre will become a fantastic resource for young people and the local community, it will be seen as a centre of excellence for work with young people.

The building is seen a vital resource, but to enable this to happen agreement is required for the building not to be sold and instead retained and leased to YCSW.”