

Environmental and sustainability policy

Context

Walworth is an inner-city district of the London Borough of Southwark which ranks seventeenth in the list of most deprived boroughs in England. The population of the area is changing but there is approximately a third of the local community who are black or a member of an ethnic community. Approximately 57% of the resident's fall under the most deprived categories. Walworth is a regeneration area which has seen a large number of new developments; these enterprises will not necessarily bring new money to the local community and certainly will not provide much needed housing.

A significant proportion of the local community are short term residents, with 62% in rented accommodation. The borough has significant social housing and there is a housing shortage for local long term families. Most of the green spaces have been built upon or will be in the next few years. There are some moves to ensure the environment is protected.

The street the centre is based in has a conservation order in place and this is what we will be building upon as an organisation. Encouraging children who live in flats and who attend the centre pre-school and afterschool schemes, to understand the nature which is around them.

The Centre

The centre building is structurally sound and has gone through a full refurbishment programme for the last 2 years. At a cost of almost £1million the building has been reshaped, with all new services and internal operational infra-structure, the installation of a mobility lift and also a small community garden for the children's project has added a new dimension for the users. The project to refurbish has been handled in a sensitive way which has put Environmentally Friendly resources at the heart of its future.

During the refurbishment materials used have been to the highest environmentally standard and as much as possible, locally sourced.

The work of the modernisation took into account all possible innovations that would make the building more eco-friendly and environmentally sound.

All of the walls and roof areas have been insulated to reduce energy demands.

There is secondary glazing throughout the building except the top floor office space.

The new heating system is run by a high energy efficient individual heaters with energy computer control zones so that they can be utilised when in use and not wasted when the building is empty. Most of the lighting is on automatic movement sensors and there are time clocks installed which controls the external lighting

The management group of the Centre will ensure the internal decorations and facilities are kept to the highest standard ensuring a quality of space for a range of community activities

The management group

Are committed to sustainable development (meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs)

Concern for the environment is an integral and fundamental part of this commitment. As a guiding principle within our work our aim is to reduce the impact on the environment from our activities.

Our environmental/sustainability action plan

We aim to promote good governance in our charity as well as dealing with aspects of poor practice. Through our work at the centre we are in a position to promote the wider sustainability agenda. We have a small team engaged in the work of St Johns Centre operating daily throughout the year

This Centre is funded primarily through the hire of the space working alongside those seeking to promote sustainability in London.

We will regularly review our targets to

- promote responsibility for the environment within the organisation,
- Communicate and implement this policy at all levels within the Centre;
- reduce the use of energy, water and other resources in the centre;
- minimise waste by reduce, maximise re-use and recycling methods;
- comply with all relevant environmental legislation/regulation;
- ensure that our policies and services are developed in a way that is complimentary to this policy;
- encourage all organisations in the centre to commit to the sustainable development Philosophy;
- identify and provide appropriate training, advice and information for all staff/volunteers and agency worker to encourage them to develop new ideas and initiatives;
- provide appropriate resources to meet the commitments of this policy; and
- promote and encourage involvement in local environmental initiatives/schemes
- develop good working practice for use of substances at the centre

Key actions

- Explore and prepare funding applications for the installation of solar panels on the building to maximise energy efficiency
- Work with the agencies to develop initiatives to reduce need for paper and waste



- Improve Environmental awareness amongst staff/ volunteers and agency workers and promote green housekeeping issues.
- Installation of recycling bins for recycling
- PAT test all electrical equipment annually
- Create an atmosphere of understanding of the environmental impact of hazardous substances used for cleaning and general operations.
- Change all Centre products to eco-friendly substances within one year

Additional actions for 2019

At the end of each session, good working practice is that on each floor there is one person responsible for

- Turning off all computers,
- Turning off all lights and heaters
- Ensuring that the building is secured appropriately.
- Ensure that the people log out of the in/out board
- Encourage all visitors to come to the centre by public transport or walking.
- Use environmentally friendly cleaning materials

Financial sustainability

The licenses agreed with the five main organisations based at the centre will provide core funding.

The Hire/ letting policy for the other spaces will allow for three categories of hire; Commercial, Community and charitable in the main community centre and the kitchen resources

There will be fund raising applications for project work in the centre

After a year of operation there will be an assessment of the costs to run the centre and the income to understand and address any funding gap if there is one.

All activities at the centre will be reviewed annually with a monitoring and evaluation process which will be established

Each year there will be a report produced; the information on any changes to Centre policies and key target outcomes will be made available to the local community and distributed to all stakeholders and sponsors.