

Who / What is 'The Hub'?



The North East Fife Community Hub has been operating in St Andrews on a nomadic basis for several years, but now has a permanent home at St David's Centre, Albany Park, St Andrews, where it has been working in a Covid-restricted capacity, since March 2021, when it was bought from Fife Council through a Community Asset Transfer.

The Hub's purpose is to offer a range of services to individuals and groups in the community, aiming to reduce isolation, reduce the impact of poverty and poor health (physical and mental), and promote wellbeing in the local area through sustainable and eco-friendly approaches. The work of the Hub centres around a Community Café, which offers nutritious and affordable food and drinks to all. It is a café for all members of the community, and people are encouraged to use the café regularly as any profits go back into supporting the work of the charity.

The St David's building is bigger than needed for purely Hub activities, but letting the extra space to other not-for-profit organisations will generate income to pay for the running costs of the Hub. Already, the local foodbank, Storehouse, is running from the Hub building, and clients can access the Clothesline clothes bank at the same time. Fife Council's Adult Daycare Centre is planning to restart as soon as Covid restrictions allow, and will use the same space as when the Council owned the building. This will provide continuity and familiarity for people for whom that is particularly important.

Since taking ownership of the building, the Hub has done essential repairs, and refurbished some of the toilets, a training kitchen and the café, and much of the equipment for the main, commercial equipment has been acquired from a refit at the University. The local Rotarians have done painting and decorating in these areas and corridors. A commercial dishwasher, oven and hob are still needed so the main kitchen can be fitted and fit for purpose. However there remains a number of rooms still to be upgraded to a standard where they can provide the Hub with a regular income. External grant funding is being sought to allow this work, whilst it is hoped that a sponsorship drive will raise enough to cover salaries, which are rarely eligible for grants, until the income stream is more secure. We hope to be in a position to appoint a Business Manager soon, which would help with the practicalities of achieving our goals.

If you would like more information about the work of the Hub, the services available, or to offer your support, either financial or by volunteering, please contact JaneEHSmith@nefcommunityhub.org in the first instance.