

LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY HUB



‘Child poverty remains one of the biggest barriers to improving outcomes for young people in the UK today. There are too many children missing out on a decent childhood and the number of children living in poverty is forecast to increase over the coming years as a result of the economic climate and cuts to welfare and services.’

National Children's Bureau: working with children, for children

Research

- A study published in 2022 found that increases in child poverty, fuelled by benefit cuts, was associated with more than 10,000 additional children being taken into care in the previous five years with 10,356 more children living in English local authority areas becoming 'looked after' than would have been the case had poverty levels remained at 2015 levels. It also estimates that almost 22,000 additional children were placed on child protection plans, and almost 52,000 began an episode of being 'in need'.

(Turner, A, Children, Social Work Leaders, 6/1/2022)

- The findings above added to 'growing evidence of the contributory causal nature of the relationship between child poverty and children's social care involvement' and concluded that there is a 'double burden on poorer areas'.

(The Lancet, Vol 7:6, June 2022 Child poverty and children entering care in England, 2015–20: a longitudinal ecological study at the local area level)

- Another study found increases in both child poverty and children's services interventions disproportionately affected poorer areas, particularly in the North East and said this placed a "double burden" of deprivation on these places.

(Sutherland, H. Can Childhood Poverty Be Abolished: Policy and Practice, Published online by Cambridge University Press 1/1/23)

- Policies that move children into poverty can trigger cascading inequalities through child protection systems and beyond, which consequently give rise to further inequalities in both health and life.

(Turner, A, Children, Social Work Leaders, 6/1/2022)

A little history of us ...

Child poverty remains one of the biggest barriers to improving outcomes for young people in the UK today. There are too many children missing out on a decent childhood and the number of children living in poverty is forecast to increase over the coming years as a result of the economic climate and cuts to welfare and services.

During the pandemic, senior leaders at Newsham Primary identified and supported many families, who were struggling, in a host of ways.

Following the pandemic, we recognised the desperate need for support from an increased number of families and the community role in school escalated. Many families were supported.

In April 2022 Newsham Primary applied to be part a trial, initiated by the Government, to consider ways to prevent childhood poverty

North of Tyne Combined Authority



PROJECT

Child Poverty Prevention Programme



WE NEED
A CHANGE

A photograph of a person's hands holding a large, rectangular cardboard sign with the words "WE NEED A CHANGE" written in bold, black, hand-painted capital letters. The person is wearing a dark green long-sleeved shirt. The background is a blurred crowd of people at what appears to be a protest or demonstration, with buildings and trees visible in the distance under a bright sky.

Child Poverty Prevention Programme

- Over 25% of children in the North East Combined Authority (NECA) live in poverty. More than half of those children are from working households and are families without the financial resilience to cope with economic crisis.
- The NECA Government funded initiative began in September 2022 and is aimed at helping to break the cycle of living in poverty; in turn this should reduce the need for much of the support we use so frequently at Newsham.
- Newsham was chosen to be part of the Steering Group driving this initiative.

Child Poverty Prevention Programme: The Birth of a Community Hub!

- In Pillar 1 Newsham opted for School Community Support. A bid for funding, to help towards funding this facility and staffing it in school, was successful and a grant was received.
 - The Caretakers bungalow was identified as a space for a Community Hub, although it was not fit for purpose.
 - A charity (Lighthouse Community Hub) was established to allow access to further funding. The trustees who established this were:
 - Senior Leader at Newsham Primary School, Wendy Atkinson
 - Vicar of St Bedes Church, Ian Flintoft
 - Chair of the local residents association, Kirsty Greenacre
 - Blyth Town Councillor, Warren Taylor
 - Local business man, Shad Saleem
 - Secretary of Blyth Rotary Club, Peter Malone
- These individuals have varying attributes and avenues of expertise which help strengthen the project.
- Over the last year the conversion of the existing building came to fruition so that it is fit for purpose.

We have changed this 3 bedroom bungalow....





EXISTING FRONT ELEVATION A-A

SCALE 1:50



PROPOSED FRONT ELEVATION A-A

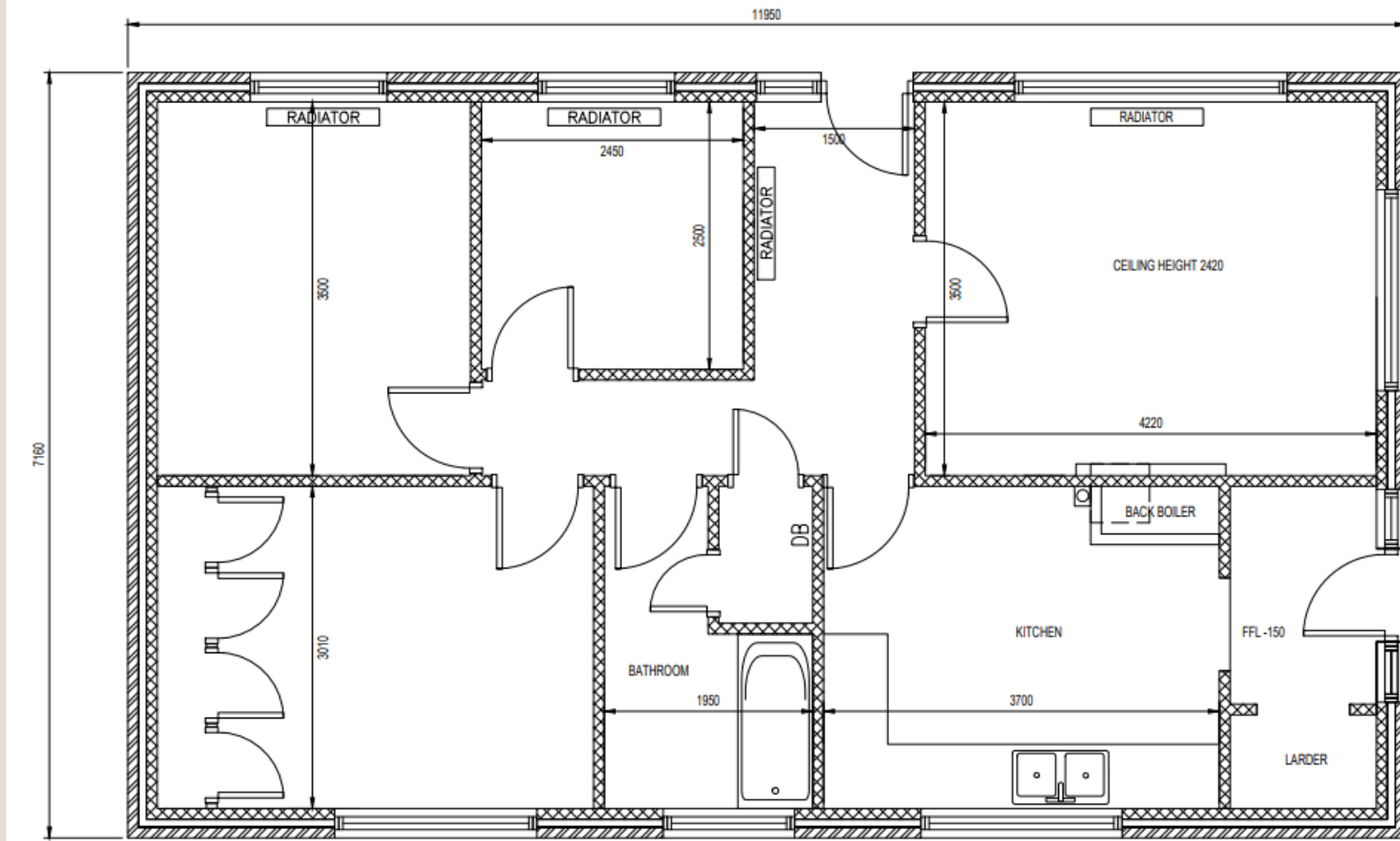
SCALE 1:50



EXISTING SIDE ELEVATION C-C
SCALE 1:50



PROPOSED SIDE ELEVATION C-C



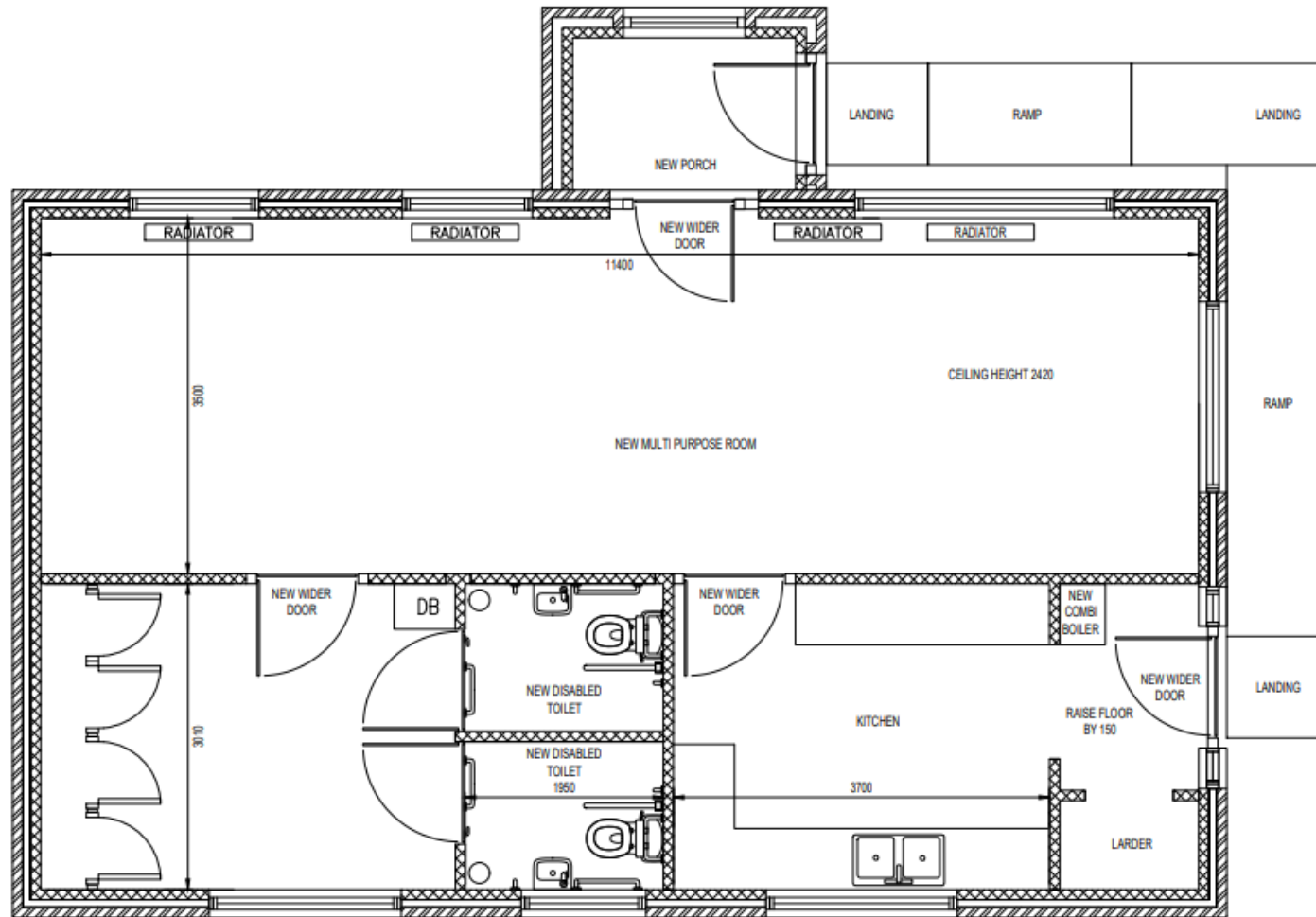
EXISTING GROUND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1:50





...into this Community space



PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1:50

NOTES

SCOPE OF WORKS

1. SPECIALIST CONTRACTOR TO REMOVE FASCIA AND SOFFITS THAT CONTAIN ASBESTOS. SEE ASBESTOS SURVEY.
2. BUILD PORCH, ACCESS RAMPS AND INSTALL WIDER DOA COMPLIANT DOORS.
3. UPGRADE BATHROOM TO 2 No. DOA COMPLIANT TOILETS.
4. UPGRADE ELECTRIC AND GAS FROM DOMESTIC TO COMMERCIAL. EXISTING DISRIBUTION BOX TO BE UPGRADED AND RELOCATED. NEW COMBI BOILER AND CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEM. INSTALL NEW FIRE AND SMOKE ALARM SYSTEMS AS RECOMMENDED BY FIRE OFFICER. PROVIDE WIFI AND DATA PORTS. ASSESS EXISTING LIGHTING AND UPGRADE WHERE NECESSARY.
5. STRUCTURAL ENGINEER TO PROVIDE CONFIRMATION BEFORE REMOVAL OF ANY INTERNAL WALLS. CALCS REQUIRED FOR ANY STRUCTURAL WORKS.
6. MAKE A FLUSH FLOOR FINISH THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING.
7. REMOVE AND MAKE GOOD EXISTING FIREPLACE.
8. UPGRADE KITCHEN TO PROVIDE MORE WORK SURFACES AND SECOND OVEN.
9. MAKE GOOD ALL INTERNAL WALLS.
10. DECORATE THROUGHOUT









Our current offer at Lighthouse Community Hub

- **Family Learning**

Basic English and Maths sessions for adults, leading to a nationally recognised qualification; this will support them in seeking employment

Multiply classes for children and parents and 'Keeping Up With The Kids' are running for children up to LKS2

- **Cooking from Scratch sessions**

Cookery sessions, including budgeting, to help adults learn to make cost effective, healthy and nutritious meals.

- **Eco-Uniform Scheme**

Presenting the recycling of school uniform appears to have reduced the stigma associated with second hand clothes. It was hugely successful in July and we have built on this. The Eco-uniform scheme is now run by a parent; this is equipping her with skills and experience to help her in to employment

- **Citizen's Advice**

As part of another initiative, we are working with Citizens Advice 'Frontline referrals' to be able to provide immediate advice, support and signposting for families. Last year £240,000 of unclaimed benefits was awarded to families in the 10 Newcastle schools via this scheme.

- **Local Councillors**

Councillors Anna Watson, John Potts and Martin Robson now hold their surgeries from the Hub.

Recent consultation events, where councillors consulted local residents on improvements they desire in their local area, have proved popular.

- **Partnership working**

Volunteers and the hub are working with local councillors on an initiative to improve the local area.

Current offer cont.

- **Community Allotment and Garden**

Launch of the community garden and community allotment; this will help families to experience first hand the benefits of growing their own produce. It promotes a healthy lifestyle through exercise, which results in improved mental health, and also the outcome of more tasty vegetables at a fraction of the cost. This is now promoted by social prescribers from two GP practices in Blyth.

- **Blyth Family Hub**

Family Hub, provide a range of parenting classes/courses. Discussions are underway to explore the Lighthouse Community Hub becoming a satellite for Blyth Family Hub.

- **Social Prescribers**

Social practitioners from local GP surgeries have approached us with a view to running groups from the hub.

- **Parent & Toddler Sessions**

Successful RISE funding has facilitated a toddlers' group. This will allow school to influence children from a younger age.

- **Fundraising.**

- The family learning group have commenced their own fundraising; this is giving these individuals a real sense of purpose and responsibility. They are developing skills that will aid them in future employment and have raised a significant sum since December 2022.
- Grant funding application to allow commencement of structural alternations.
- Support and funding from local councillors
- 2 councillors (Anna Watson and Cliff Humphries) have donated £10,000 each to help fund this project.

Partnership working with external organisations...

- **Engage in the Community**

Access to school uniform, general clothing, shoes, household items and furnishings.

- **Community Food and Friendship**

- Provide support for families at Christmas with gifts for all household members and food parcels.
- Easter eggs for families.
- Food provided throughout all school holidays for nominated families in need.
- *Freeby Fridays – Greggs giveaways*

- **Blyth Foodbank**

Emergency food provision.

- **Blyth Town Council**

School participation in organised events in the local community.

Partnership working cont.

➤ **Operation Elf/Jigsaw events**

- Provide Christmas gifts for families
- Easter eggs for children
- Provide support for birthdays, bereavements, new baby etc.

➤ **Rotary Club of Blyth**

- Junior Rotary Citizen of The Year Award
- Competitions for school (mainly KS2) to participate in
- Food hampers to families at Christmas
- Provide financial support for local projects

➤ **Buffalo Centre**

- Refugee and Asylum-seeking support.
- Formal English classes and conversational sessions

➤ **Northumberland County of Sanctuary**

- Support for asylum seekers and Refugee families.
- Newsham has recently been awarded School of Sanctuary.

Successes so far

- From the group of 10 adults who have attended family learning sessions over the past year:
 - One has enrolled and is studying for a GCSE in maths
 - Four have secured employment
- Over half of the group we have worked with have improved the life chances for themselves and their families in year 1 of this initiative.
- The community spirit and friendships that have developed between individuals – less isolation and new friendships are evident.
- More importantly for me is seeing the sense of purpose and increased confidence in these individuals who now believe in themselves.
- An invitation to share the work we are doing with Pupil Premium leads throughout Northumberland.
- A visit from North or Tyne Mayor Jamie Driscoll for us to showcase the work we have done.

What's new

- Adrienne Ruddick, volunteer manager from Eden Project is now leading Cooking from Scratch sessions and helping to organise the volunteers and fundraising events.
- We are working with NCC to submit a CSG report to allow us to commence building work at an approximate cost of £65k
- We currently have in excess of £10k in bank and a further £20k held by NCC
- We have welcomed a new trustee on board who is very keenly exploring funding from different sources.
- I am currently in discussion or have submitted applications to the following for funding:
 - Blyth Rotary Club - £5k applied for
 - Freemasons - awaiting response as I stated the entire cost
 - NCC Community Chest application - £5k Jan 2024
 - Barbour Foundation - £3k
 - NCC (VCS) Employability, Communities, Economy and Regeneration Scheme

Future Plans

- Increase the offer of English and Maths to a greater number of families
- Provide varying levels of adult learning to help parents be able to support their children
- Establish a youth group and social group for adults
- Establish community activities for all ages
- Provide in person welfare/housing/benefits/employment advice weekly
- Increase and broaden the provision offered
- Offer the hub as a warm space
- Upskill adults and volunteers so the hub can become more self sufficient

All of this will undoubtedly enhance the life chances and aspirations for some of our most disadvantaged families

Lighthouse Community Hub at Newsham Primary School

Pupil Premium Funding (*additional funding for publicly funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities and to close the gaps between them and their peers*) does not fund any of the community work we are doing at Newsham. However, the work impacts significantly on the lives of some of our most disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils together with their families.

The Lighthouse Community Hub is increasing the life chances for some of our most disadvantaged local families and it is our aim to break the cycle for some of these families, many of whom are now experiencing third generation unemployment and poverty.