

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Review of asset transfer decision Children's Wood and North Kelvin Meadow
Date: 17 April 2020 16:57:18

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in support of the request by the Children's Wood and North Kelvin Meadow for a review of the asset transfer decision - specifically the clause that would allow the Council to build on the land.

I am a local resident, but also I am a local community paediatrician, specialising in the diagnosis, management and support of children with disability and developmental difficulties, and I have a background in child public health. From my base at Woodside Health and Care Centre, I see children and families from across the whole of North Glasgow. I note the council's decision states the Children's Wood/North Kelvin Meadow proposal "is likely to promote health, social well-being and environmental well-being." I can absolutely vouch for that. Over the years, as the services run by the Children's Wood/North Kelvin Meadow have developed, I have increasingly heard parents and education staff report how individual children have benefitted from the access that more than 25 local schools and nurseries have to the Wood/Meadow. Children with autism who are so stressed by the sensory environment indoors that they show very little positive social interaction and communication have surprised staff at their engagement and communication during activities at the Wood/Meadow. Recently, I have been able to signpost stressed parents to the 5 Ways to Wellbeing 6 week Programme run at the Wood/Meadow, and also the G20 youth club has developed, successfully engaging with vulnerable young people. Emily Cutts from the Wood/Meadow has given a talk at a joint education session our team held with the local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, which was also attended by some of the primary care staff in the health centre.

Building these sorts of relationships, and developing habits of Social Prescribing, takes time. In the last year or so, and particularly since the opening of the new Woodside Health and Care Centre, our relationship with the Children's Wood/Meadow has strengthened, and I know they have also forged links with NHS staff based at Possilpark Health and Care Centre (and probably Maryhill Health Centre too, though I don't know that for a fact). Jeopardising the Wood/Meadow's ability to plan for the future jeopardises those relationships and the extensive benefits for population health and well-being that can be derived from them. Considering the assets-based approach to health improvement, and various strands of the work of the Glasgow Centre for Population Health to improve health and tackle inequality, such as Resilience, Healthy Communities, and Places and Regeneration, the Children's Wood/North Kelvin Meadow "ticks all the boxes" in a way that a single nursery built on the site could never do.

I vehemently advocate for the clause allowing the council to build on the site to be removed, and for the Children's Wood/North Kelvin Meadow to be granted the 25 year lease that will allow them the confidence to continue to provide all that they already do, and to develop even further, with all the consequent benefits for the health, wellbeing, resilience, potential and success of local residents.

Yours very sincerely,

[REDACTED]