

The Lighthouse: Planning application 2017/2092/P

Proposed use of the fourth-floor accommodation (currently known as the 'Ark').

Accommodation on the fourth floor of the Lighthouse is currently designed to consist of two 2 bedroomed and one 3 bedroomed flats with communal laundry facilities, meeting space and a room for a member of staff.

The accommodation is intended to provide a 'move through' home for vulnerable young people aged 16-25 who are, or have been in local authority care and may include those with lower level mental health needs and/or learning difficulties. This provision is likely to be of the kind and have the level of visiting or floating support that will encourage young people to gain full independence and move on from this accommodation after a period of, say, between 6 and 12 months.

It is anticipated that the 'Ark' will be managed by a provider commissioned by Camden Council to run such services on their behalf and whose core values and practices are such that they can work successfully with the Holy Trinity Church through an appropriate partnership agreement.

Camden Council will nominate the young people via the Children and Families Social Services Team as part of the commissioned services Pathways framework.

Holy Trinity will let the premises to the provider through a licence or lease agreement (whichever is most legally apposite) and with appropriate break clauses to allow for timely review of the need for and success of the service.

The proposed Lighthouse has so far attracted donations and pledges totalling approximately £3 million. Much of this funding has come in support of and to facilitate, provision of a home for this client group, within a setting that offers a range of additional synergistic educational, training and support opportunities aimed at promoting young people's human flourishing.

Such opportunities include:

- on site employment readiness training provided by the Camden Spear Trust
- apprenticeships and/or employment in the proposed Café run as a social enterprise
- engagement with the XLP youth work organisation who will be based on site
- access to a proposed Chaplaincy and an envisaged counselling service
- use of health and wellbeing services run by community organisations on site
- access to the church's spiritual development services and social groups

The church recognises that changing priorities in social need are hard to predict and that, therefore, some flexibility in this proposal is required.

However, much future funding is likely to continue to come in response to the desire to support this group of vulnerable young people and further attracted by the continuing synergy mentioned above. Without both these factors, the required funding for The Lighthouse is unlikely to materialise.

In the longer term, it may be that Camden no longer has a need for provision of 'move through' or similar accommodation for vulnerable young people.

In that situation, the church would be willing to discuss ways it might alter its provision to meet Camden's changed priorities. But the church also reserves the right to seek to change the use of the floor for some other charitable purpose that responds to social need and/or to identify another charitable provider of such services.