

Summary

The Commonground initiative offers an opportunity for Cork City and a wide range of voluntary organisations to be involved in a vibrant and innovative scheme.

It will increase the profile of the voluntary sector by its association with Commonground and will help improve outcomes for the target populations and service users through improved service delivery and organisational development.

It will provide a point at which the voluntary and community sectors within Cork City can interact with the City Council, Health Board, other agencies and inhabitants of the city, thereby improving liaison.

It will be a central resource for individuals and groups, providing opportunities for access to training, information, equipment, meeting and workspace, thereby improving efficiency and cost effectiveness. It will act as a model of good practice which can be replicated in other areas.

In summary, this proposal will be a major resource for a wide variety of groups and communities in Cork City and environs. It will create an environment where quality standards for service delivery will be prioritised and enabled. It will provide a lasting focus for communication, co-operation and capacity building for the City and its voluntary and community groups.

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How can you find out more about Commonground?

The Commonground Development Group will organise information meetings in the future.

In the meantime, if you want to know more about this initiative please contact any of the following:

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Commonground



An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta
Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs





Commonground

What is Commonground?

Commonground aims to create a civic space in which quality voluntary sector services in Cork will be enhanced.

The Commonground Development Group is a partnership between Cork City Council, the Southern Health Board, the Sexual Health Centre and the Disability Federation of Ireland and The Social and Health Education Project.

What will Commonground do?

Commonground will facilitate networking, collaboration, the sharing of resources and expertise and opportunities for training and organisational development.

Commonground will help organisations to develop and improve their skills and therefore provide quality services for their target populations.

Commonground will help raise the profile of voluntary sector organisations and their service users.

Commonground will provide a building with a variety of accommodation options for voluntary sector organisations.

Commonground will provide access to meeting space for voluntary, community and statutory organisations.

Commonground will provide a staffed resource centre with facilities accessible by organisations and individuals, both tenants and non-tenants of Commonground. Commonground will promote innovative approaches to organisational and service development.

Commonground will create a civic space where voluntary, community and statutory sectors may interface to the benefit of all.

Why do we need Commonground?

The members of the Commonground Development Group, through their involvement in the sector over many years, are aware of the needs that many organisations have expressed for good quality accessible accommodation and meeting space and access to high quality resources and capacity building. A survey of voluntary sector organisations confirms this.

Where will Commonground be?

Cork City Council has provided two floors of the fire station building in Anglesea Street, which will become vacant in 2007.

The Commonground building will therefore provide a city centre base for voluntary sector organisations and meeting space and resource centre for other organisations.

Commonground may prove to be a model for addressing similar or related needs in other areas.

What facilities will Commonground provide?

ACCOMMODATION

Commonground will provide a range of sizes of offices to suit the needs of different organisations. Commonground will provide multi-room offices, single offices and shared desks.

MEETING FACILITIES

Tenants of Commonground and other organisations will have access to a range of accessible meeting and consulting rooms.

RESOURCE CENTRE

Commonground will provide access to high quality resources such as photocopiers, computers, internet access, scanners, desktop publishing and technical expertise.

CAFÉ / MEETING SPACE

Commonground will provide a small cafe for tenants of the building and users of services which will be a focal point for interaction.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Commonground will provide opportunities for organisations to co-operate, access training, network and meet, not only with members of the voluntary and community sector, but also with the statutory sector such as health board services, City Council departments etc.

When will this happen?

It is hoped that the building will be available for refurbishment in 2007 and will be occupied in the latter half of that year.

Will there be a charge?

The Commonground Development Group has produced a business plan. This will help to attract grant aid for the setting up and equipping of Commonground and for staff costs.

Organisations using Commonground facilities will be charged reasonable and affordable rates.

Who will run Commonground?

Commonground will register as a company limited by guarantee and will apply for charitable status.

The tenants and other users of the centre will have representatives on the Board of Directors alongside representatives of the key supporters of the project from the statutory and non-statutory sectors and individuals with particular expertise as deemed appropriate.

A manager will be employed to run and develop the centre and will be assisted by a small staff.

