

Properties Fit For Mission

Grant evaluation



Your grant required completion of a satisfactory evaluation, usually approximately 12 months after completion of your property project to allow time for its missional impact to start to be seen. The purpose of this is to support you in reflecting on your project, what you would do differently for future projects, and what you have learnt along the way that you and others should be mindful of for future initiatives.

Please be as open as possible in your reflections. In this context a “satisfactory” evaluation is one that demonstrates you are actively learning, reflecting on progress and responding to changing circumstances. It is quite normal for some things not to turn out as expected when starting something new. We may ask to discuss some of your responses with you or your team, as a normal part of the evaluation process.

If you have already answered these questions on another recent document, feel free to send us a copy as an alternative to this form.

If Tom Rattigan, District Missional Property Enabler, has already explored some of these questions with you, there is no need to repeat yourself here.

Your evaluation may be shared with members of the District Leading Team and Property Advisory Panel. We will not treat information contained here as for public distribution without first checking with you.

Organisation	The Foundry Sheffield
Project	Main Hall Chair Replacement
Person completing this evaluation	Rose Durant
Date of evaluation	05/04/2024

VISION - When you applied for a grant you explained the missional vision that your property was not fit for.

How and why has your missional vision evolved or been clarified since then?

The vision we had was that individuals and congregations would be able to worship in an unrestricted way, and that we would be able to welcome a wider range of individuals into the space to be able to engage with a wider range of activities. Victoria Hall Methodist Church have been able to make use of the new space for new things. For example, at Easter they were able to invite a diverse range of individuals who engage with the Sunday evening Oasis to an Easter Meal and show good hospitality. The congregation are no longer restricted to a small area to worship, but can use all the space and choose to sit in a large circle where they feel this provides intimacy and inclusivity.

The Foundry’s mission is much the same in terms of welcoming all into the building and providing spaces which are safe for services to be able to use and serve those who are most in need. The multi-agency drop in has been able to expand further, working with even more agencies and services to provide a 1-stop-shop for refugees and asylum seekers in need. They have also been able to provide food provision once a month due to the increased space availability. We have seen an increase in the number of conferences choosing to hire the space.

MARKERS OF FRUITFULNESS - In your application you explained what fruitfulness would look like after completion of capital works.

Against these measures, how are you progressing at this stage?

How confident are you of meeting all of these markers?

If any of your markers of fruitfulness have changed since you application explain why and how

The Foundry relies on income to sustain the ever-demanding needs of the building and to continue to support the charities based here and our other charity partners. The removal of the chairs was also to enable us to increase the variety of different events held in the Main Hall. The increase in income from Main Hall events has steadily increased since the removal of the chairs.

MAKING FIT – Did you succeed in doing all the works you had planned to make your property fit for your mission? What further property changes do you still have to make?

We have a long term building plan which encompasses several upgrades throughout the building. However, in this particular project, all that had been planned was successfully completed. The Main worship space is set to have further renovations this year as we plan to install better accessibility with a new ramp and lift.

ECO CHURCH – if you have not yet been awarded Eco Church status, what do you have left to achieve this?

When do you expect to gain your award?

We are working hard to reinstate our heating system which is ran off the district energy plant. We are actively looking for grant funding to assist us in working out how we can upgrade the grade 2 listed building to become more eco-friendly.

TEAM – How often do the team responsible for steering and directing this work currently meet? What has worked well about this model of oversight?

Are you planning to make any changes to this over the coming year?

TEAM – Who is praying for this work? How are you engaging with them at this stage?

We hold weekly team meetings to keep up to date on how things are progressing. Board meetings are held bi-monthly where the staff team update on where we are at with the business plan and receive any direction necessary. We don't currently plan to change this.

We pray at every board meeting. Some of the individuals within the staff team pray daily about the work of The Foundry.

RISKS AND RESPONSES – In your application you explained how you would respond to the main risks to flourishing of your project you foresaw at the time.

If any of these have transpired, how did you respond?

Did any other major challenges transpire that you had not anticipated? How did you cope?

The main challenge which has come from the project is the level of staff time and effort which is needed now to respond to the changing needs of the hall. We had not taken into consideration that more staff time would be needed to set up and down up to 350 chairs.

None of the risks identified were an issues during the works.

JOURNEY – Knowing what you do now, what would you differently if faced with a future capital project?

Begin communications to set expectations with contractors at an earlier stage.

Allow more time for anything to go wrong.

SHARING STORIES – If not mentioned already, is there one particular story of God at work since your capital works that we could share publicly?

Who should Sam Roberts, District Communications Officer contact to discuss this?

Jonathan Haigh may be able to share a story.

Please return this questionnaire to Neil Harland, District Mission Enabler
mission@sheffieldmethodist.org