

For the attention of Deputy Inna Gardiner, Chair, Public Accounts Committee

On behalf of Jersey Mencap committee I would like to advise the Panel of our current situation and our hopes for the future.

Jersey Mencap maintains a number of projects for adults with a learning disability which includes art sessions, social club and a host of activities to help our members enjoy a full and varied life.

Adults with a learning disability are at risk of isolation, exclusion and decline in wellbeing. With our sessions regularly fully booked, we feel this is an indication of the importance of Jersey Mencap projects.

Jersey Mencap has been established for 60 years and has worked hard to be financially independent.

We have a small office that we rent from Government of Jersey at Howard Davis Farm but the building is close to being condemned. This is reflected in the low rent which we have been grateful for but we need to expand to meet the growing demand. The building isn't accessible so we rent rooms at a variety of other venues for all our projects. This is an additional cost to the charity and often creates logistical challenges for our members. We identified the need for a central point for Jersey Mencap and approached Andium several years ago with regards to renting a space which could house our activities and staff. Sadly, nothing came to fruition despite a number of meetings.

The space needs to be accessible for wheelchairs and close to a good bus route as many of our members are reliant on public transport. We would host our art project, social club activities and be able to expand to meet growing demand. We are open to sharing a multi-use space and prepared for an increase in rent.

We would appreciate consideration for this much needed hub to ensure Jersey Mencap can continue making a difference to those with a learning disability and their families in Jersey.

Yours faithfully

Alex