

# Cyrenians launches new Edinburgh HQ

**A charity hub has created a purpose-built HQ for one of Scotland's most important organisations dedicated to ending homelessness.**

Cyrenians has already spent 25 years based in Norton Park in Edinburgh but was spread across several units in the former school, which is home to 21 third sector organisations.

When a rare space came available in the building – know as the home of charities in Edinburgh – bosses at the hub bent over backwards to ensure it was refitted to perfectly suit the needs of Cyrenians.

Now the 220-strong charity, dedicated to tackling both the causes and consequences of homelessness has moved into a space almost double the size of its previous offices, which had become cramped as the organisation grew steadily.

Last year alone Cyrenians supported over 10,800 people experiencing or who were at risk of homelessness.

Catherine Bromley, marketing and communications manager with Cyrenians, heaped praise on Norton Park – a charity in its own right – as a brilliant landlord providing specialist and affordable offices space to those in the third sector.

She added: “Being in Norton Park, we are close to many other organisations who are striving towards similar goals. That opens us up to so many opportunities for collaboration, which

has been fantastic.

“The facilities and amenities at Norton Park enable our staff to collaborate more effectively as we work to make real, lasting change in the lives of people in Scotland.

“We are launching a strategic plan for 2024 to 2027 and the move to the bigger space is very much consolidation for us as we strive to focus on and strengthen the services we offer at a time when Scotland is facing a housing emergency and we have never been more needed.”

The milestone move for Cyrenians means the organisation is now based in 3100 sq feet of space at Norton Park, where previously its team were spread across 3 units in the building with a total footprint of just 2800 sq ft. It also has offices in Falkirk and the Borders.

Since moving into Norton Park in 1999, Cyrenians has undergone significant expansion, currently providing 63 essential services across seven local authorities.

It attributes the expansion to the growing need for its services as a result of the persisting housing crisis and rising cost of living, leading to heightened levels of homelessness and temporary accommodation placements for many Scots.

Norton Park, in the heart of Leith, was a primary and secondary school which catered to generations of Edinburgh youngsters since 1903.

However, it later fell into disrepair until 1998, when it was rescued by the former Albion Trust (now known as Norton Park SCIO) which was founded to transform the building.

Continued investment means it now boasts a campus of modern shared offices, serviced with a reception – and fully accessible conference meeting and events spaces. Its

conference centre, housed in a converted church adjacent to the school, provides space for up to 120 delegates.

It provides rent and services to charities significantly below market rates, enabling them to put more money back into their various missions.

Yolanda Wringe, Chief Operational Officer from Norton Park said: "Over the past 25 years we've had the privilege of accommodating Cyrenians and witnessing its remarkable growth as an organisation.

"Our aim to create a supportive community for these vital organisations so they can focus on their mission-driven work.

"From charities with a two people-strong team to 220 people, our premises enable sharing of experiences and resources which can help enable organisations like Cyrenians to grow."

Norton Park is Edinburgh's first office complex exclusively for charities and social enterprises, offering discounted rates for registered charities, community groups and public sector organisations.

The eco-friendly building offers flexible leasing arrangements and specially designed spaces to foster productivity and cooperation among nonprofits.



Cyrenians staff at Norton Park

