

# Marble Hill Community Project

Re-imagining Marble Hill Playcentres; a revived  
community hub for all families



**THE BACKGROUND: The Playcentres has been a key part of our community for over 40 years and a charity for the last 20 years.**

**Our users are from diverse backgrounds** and the Playcentres draws us all together in the shared experience of parenthood and play. We **charge an affordable rate** for the Playcentres, free passes are available for those receiving certain benefits or with additional needs. Our **focus on “child-led” and “adventurous play”** within the beauty of Marble Hill Park is a unique offering. It also provides a home for the Mandarin Ducklings Nursery.



**It very nearly shut in 2017 but was saved with the help of HFAC and RPLC and a new Board of Trustees was established. In 2018, the new Trustees carried out a strategic review and concluded that the “current model is broken” for the following reasons.**

- There is insufficient inside space and cannot open year round
- Staffing issues - re-hiring new staff each year, cannot afford a full-time manager
- The buildings and outside equipment are nearing the end of their lifespan
- There are reduced public & private funds available

We issued an online survey asking for views and had an overwhelmingly positive response in favour of saving the Playcentres.

- 805 survey responses included 13% low-income families, 22% additional needs, 19% children.
- 97% believe the Playcentres provide a valuable service to the community
- 76% would like the Playcentres to work with other charities to provide more

# THE VISION: creating a ground-breaking and unique community hub, formed of local charities working to unlock the magic of community, and magnifying the impact of each charity's work.

It will be a safe, inclusive, accessible space for indoor and outdoor play, activities and support for mainstream and SEND children and young people and their families. It will harness the power of music and play and be sustainable and harmonious within the heritage and beauty of Marble Hill Park. It will continue to provide a home for the MDN.



A music therapy charity that works with clients of all ages and needs to help facilitate development, encourage communication, help with behavioural issues and more. In urgent need of a new home or will be at risk of needing to close.

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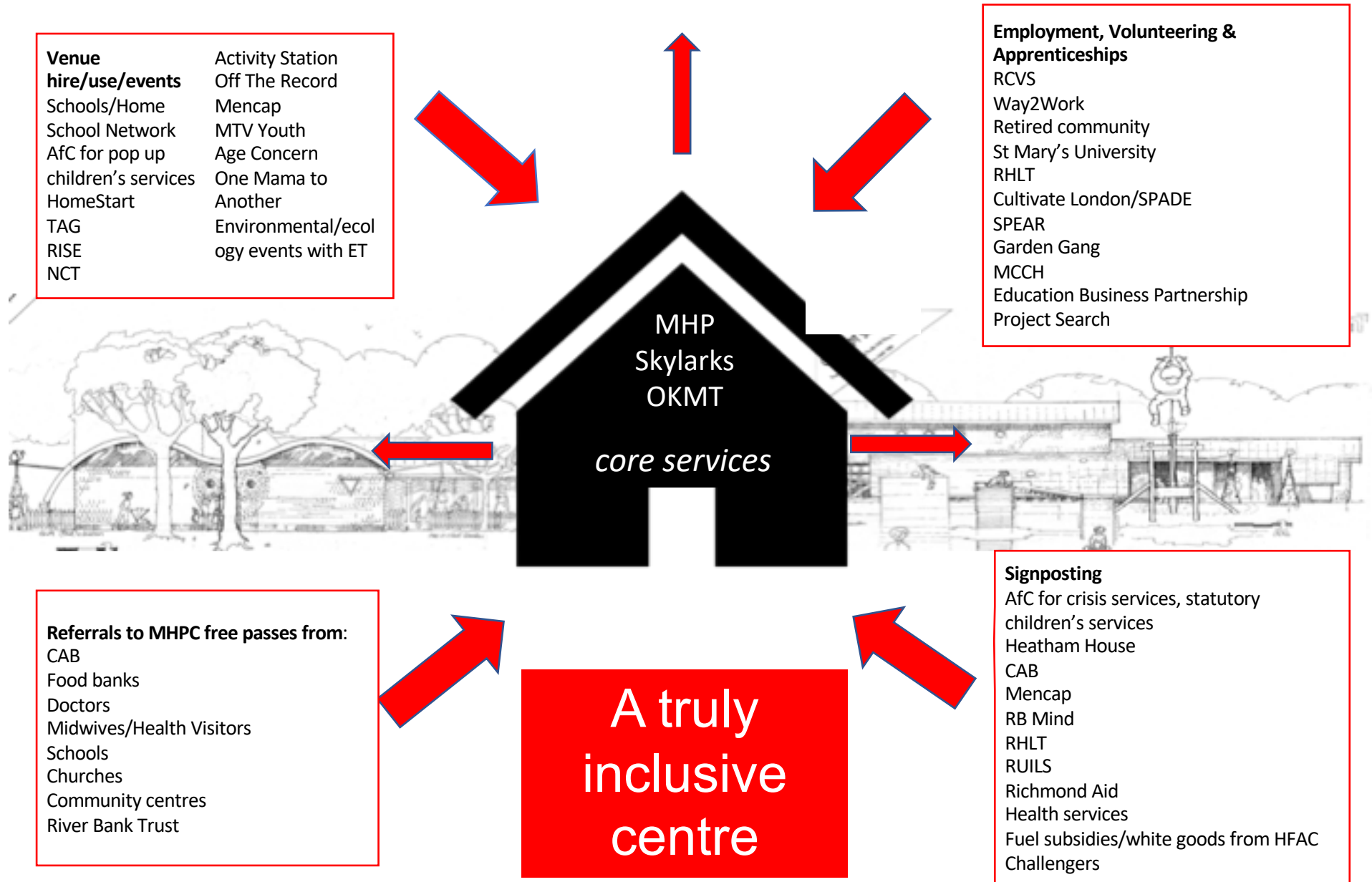
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A destination for families with children with additional needs and disabilities: providing therapies, support and activities, + practical and emotional support for parents and carers. Skylarks has seen growth in the # of families needing support and wish to grow to meet this demand.



# The new hub will play an important role in the wider community



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<https://mhcp.org.uk>

