



## Re-purposing a vacant property to provide accommodation to a local foodbank

### HEMLINGTON MEDICAL CENTRE, MIDDLESBROUGH

#### Background

##### Site:

A leasehold property that is currently vacant

##### Customers:

- South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Middlesbrough Foodbank

##### NHSPS representatives:

- Darren Naylor, Senior Property Manager
- Danielle Potts, Facilities Service Assistant

#### The Challenge

This health centre is currently vacant, surplus to NHS requirements, and we have no way to exit the building until next year when we have an upcoming break option, at which point we can hand the property back to the landlord. This meant that NHS money was being spent on an unused property (rent and various running costs to keep the building secure), and that space within a community wasn't being used to serve the public.

#### The Solution

NHS Property Services (NHSPS) were approached by Middlesbrough Foodbank in May 2019, who enquired about the possibility of using our premises on a temporary basis whilst their existing premises undergoes some urgent structural repairs.

We sought approval from South Tees CCG, and have arranged for the foodbank to occupy the premises on a weekly basis until their existing premises is ready for occupation once more. With the help of Bevan Brittan, who provided us with a temporary events license on a pro bono basis, our Property and Facilities Management teams set up the accommodation for the Foodbank to occupy.

#### The Result

This shows the potential of how two different organisations can work together in order to make best use of a premises in order to assist and benefit the wider community. NHSPS have also since arranged an office collection for the foodbank, helping them to further serve those in need.

#### Customer Feedback

*"We're grateful to all parties involved in making this happen. St Timothy's Distribution Centre has been an important part of the community in Hemlington, but with the structural issues with the building, we're unable to continue running foodbank sessions there. Thanks to the willingness and support from all parties, including the Community Asset Transfer Team at MBC, our volunteers from St Timothy's have been able to continue providing foodbank services. Since May 2019, close to 60 individuals (including children within families) have received emergency food parcels at our distribution centre in Hemlington Medical Centre."*

**Soroush Sadeghzadeh**

Project Manager, Middlesbrough Foodbank