

Case Study – [A1 Fun Club](#)

Foley House, Newmarket, CB8 0HY– a 2 minute walk from the town centre

The setting is awaiting its first full inspection from Ofsted in the new building.

Previously, the setting was judged as Good.

The setting employs 8 staff including 2 apprentices.

The issue

A1 Fun Club operated for 12 years from a rented building in Newmarket. Tracey Ainge, Managing Director was given three months' notice to leave the building as the owners were intending to sell it. In June 2015 this was extended to the end of September 2015.

Tracey had made some initial enquiries looking for a solution to the problem, including meeting with the Head at one of the local schools to see if there was space in the school, contacting the hospital and also looking into the availability of commercial property.

Having been unsuccessful with these enquiries Tracey contacted the Early Years and Childcare Service.

Given the local authority's duty to secure sufficient childcare it was important to provide support to Tracey in trying to find alternative premises, as without A1 Fun Club, the families of Newmarket would struggle to find childcare.

Laura Butters, Early Years and Childcare Quality and Access Co-ordinator worked with Tracey to establish what was required.

As a result of this initial work the Early Years and Childcare Officer identified Foley House as a potential appropriate space for A1 Fun Club and made an application to the Corporate Property Programme Board (CPPB).

The CPPB approved the application which enabled the Early Years and Childcare Officer to instruct Concertus to provide plans for the reconfiguration of the available space.

The works took place in Autumn 2015 and A1 Fun Club moved in to the new premises in November 2015.

What worked well (WWW)

Moving to a different site has enabled the setting to continue to offer childcare places to families in Newmarket. The space comprises of two activity rooms and was an opportunity to expand the provision.

Previously the setting was able to offer places to 22 children. The setting can now offer an additional 14 places taking the total to 36 children two to four year olds.

A1 Fun Club has a 10 year lease with Suffolk County Council for Foley House paying a commercial rent.

The move also provided the setting with an opportunity to reassess their resources and plan for new furniture and other resources to support children's learning and development.

Alterations at Foley House included:

- Convert large cupboard into staff room by inserting a window. The statutory framework for the EYFS (September 2014) states:

Providers must also ensure that there is an area where staff may talk to parents and/or carers confidentially, as well as an area in group settings for staff to take breaks away from areas being used by children.

- Additional door to outside to enable free flow from all rooms.
- Reconfigure toilets to create four child toilets, nappy changing area and accessible/adult toilet.
- Adapt entrance to form secure lobby
- Enclose office area and insert hatch.
- Insert wall to divide rooms.
- Enclose and update kitchen.
- Canopy to outside area (subject to planning/funding) in collaboration with SCC EYC service.
- Level outside area, Asphalt and grass. Secure gate and fence added.
- New windows, boiler and heating system.
- Fire alarm system
- Space for washing machine
- Child and adult height sink in room
- Washable flooring

The EYC Officer also worked with the setting's Managing Director to support the development of the setting's policies including:

- Opening hours, providing the 'stretched offer'
- Charging for unsocial hours
- Staffing, recruitment, salaries, supervision

What's on offer at A1 Fun Club?

The setting is open from 6.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. 51 weeks of the year to provide 'wrap around care' for children in the Newmarket area.

It comprises:

- **A Breakfast club** – providing parents with the flexibility to begin work early knowing that their children are safe, can have a healthy breakfast and can then be safely transported to school. An onsite Breakfast club at Paddocks school is also available and children can be transported there who need start earlier than its 7.50 opening time.
- **A nursery** - providing day care for children from 18 months to school age. During their day, the children are provided with a wide range of activities, they socialise with others and develop their skills at their own pace according to the guidelines set out in the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage). The setting offers the free entitlement for eligible 2 year olds and 3 and 4 year olds.

The setting is keen to offer the +15 hours from September 2017.

- **An After School Club** - providing safe transport from school to A1 Fun Club Ltd. where the children can access activities that are suitable for their age group and a 'homework' area. School pick ups include:

[Houldsworth Valley Primary School \(Newmarket\)](#)

[Paddocks Primary School \(Newmarket\)](#)

[Laureate Primary School \(Newmarket\)](#)

[St Louis Catholic Academy \(Newmarket\)](#)

- **A Holiday Club** – providing care for children between 5 and 11 years so they can have an enjoyable and safe environment to use during the school holidays.

The majority of children attend A1 Fun Club because their parents work, so the setting aims to be flexible regarding the days and times that they attend.

