



Bristol Community Links (BCL) North
Resources, facilities, activities
www.bristol.gov.uk/bcl

1. Grounds, gardens and outdoor space

- BCL-North benefits from its own grounds including football pitch-sized plot of grass which would be suitable for sports activities, garden plots to promote use of outdoor spaces for our user group and enclosed rear gardens for people to enjoy during the warmer months or to grab some fresh air.

2. Fully equipped facilities

- The building has been extensively refurbished including all of its facilities for providing personal intimate care.
- All personal care areas are equipped with the latest overhead ceiling hoists, brand new shower equipment and are designed to ensure they meet the needs of a diverse range of needs.
- As well as private space personal care facilities, this facility is also on offer to visiting members of the public.
- The unit has disabled access WC and a full personal care area for members of the public should they require it.

3. Skills kitchen

- The unit as part of the refurbishment had a brand new skills kitchen installed.
- This kitchen has rise and fall work surfaces, a rise and fall sink facility, a rise and fall hob facility as well as an oven that is accessible from a wheelchair.
- All of the wall cupboard spaces have Perspex door inserts to aid people who have memory difficulties to identify items stored in cupboards.
- These wall units are also equipped with mechanical basket arrangement which lowers the contents of the cupboard making it again accessible to people who use wheelchairs.

4. Sensory room

- During the refurbishment a new sensory room was installed including raised floor beds providing access to the sensory experience to those who wish to get out of their wheelchair.
- The sensory room is equipped with brand new equipment and offers a sensory experience that can be viewed by all.

5. Conservatory and natural light

- As part of the refurbishment the unit benefited from a new conservatory area offering attendees of the service a space in which to relax.

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- It's an area which invites the outside in, and allows visitors to experience sunlight even in the colder months.

6. Computers and technology, including social networking online

- We also have a public access computer area which can be used both for educational groups and to allow recreational use the internet via our free wi-fi.
- As well as this fixed computer facility the unit also has portable equipment including iPads and laptop computers that can be used almost anywhere in the building using the wi-fi.
- All of this also enables access of the **Bristol & Me** social network and our staff are available to provide support with this.
- We also benefit from two 'smartboards' (interactive whiteboards), one of which is in the computer room and the other is in one of our general activity rooms.

7. Freedom to move - independently and safely

- On offer to people who attend the service is a large inflatable airspace facility which provides another opportunity for those with physical and sensory impairment to get out of their wheelchairs and experience the freedom to move independently in a safe environment.

8. A café – welcoming all

- 'Bright, airy and welcoming' is a good description for the unit's newly installed community café. Members of the public can enjoy tea, coffee, fresh homemade cakes, a variety of snacks as well as a main meal.

9. Creativity: music, art and craft skills

- We also benefit from a newly refurbished pottery/art space which has kiln facilities offering people the opportunity to enjoy immersing themselves in art and craft.
- The *expressive arts* area should also not be forgotten. BCL North benefits from a dedicated space housing:
 - i. An array of percussion instruments;
 - ii. a mirrored wall for dance and drama activity;
 - iii. Our *Soundbeam 5* system. Soundbeam 5 is an innovative piece of equipment which sends an invisible beam across a room that allows any kind of movement to be translated into sound and music.

10. Transport.

- The unit has six fully accessible minibus-style vehicles as well as a fully-accessible people carrier style vehicle that enables and supports individuals and small groups to benefit from involvement in the local community, and to take advantage of supported opportunities such as sailing in Bristol docks.

11. Next steps: a Hot tub

- A hot tub facility will be coming available in the near future.