

Basement Refurb & Canva

One of the biggest and most exciting things to happen this year has been the re-design and refurbishment of our basement space. It had previously been used as a workshop for technical skills classes but since this was no longer something we were able to offer, we started to think about how the space could be used.



The basement 'before'

Last March, Crisis was approached by graphic design company Canva with an offer to refurbish the space. This was part of a programme Canva offer called 'Empowered Spaces' where they look to work with local charities, drawing on the expertise of Canva's in-house design and space creation team, to renovate spaces and make them more inclusive and better suited to the needs of the charity.

Initially, we surveyed members to find out how they would like to use the space, what colours would make it feel more welcoming, specific features and furniture that should be included as well as asking how we could improve access to make it easier for everyone to spend time there. Using this information, we worked with Canva to come up with a design that suited the Skylight, holding regular feedback sessions for staff and members along the way.

Work began and the 'pods' were demolished and the new flooring laid. Volunteers from Canva then painted all the walls and then returned to unpack and build all the furniture for us - a tall order when all you have is the IKEA allen key!

We have recently begun working with local Croydon artist Alec Saunders, on co-producing a mural with members for the space, which should be completed at the end of April. Alec will be working with our Arts for Wellbeing tutor and a group of members to plan and produce a mural that will bring the basement space to life.



Removal of pods, paint on walls and carpets being laid



Here's where we are today...so quite literally - watch this space!



A big shout out and thank you must go to all the wonderful businesses who helped us bring the space to life including Bell Building & Decorating who donated labour to remove the pods, Solo Wood Recycling who took away all of the waste wood, Ajax Flooring who donated all the screed for the floor and Brewers Decorating Centres who donated dozens of litres of paint! Thank you!