***Statement by the TNRC Trustees:***

**Thanington Resource Centre** is a resident-led charity and community building on the outskirts of Canterbury, which serves an area of social housing in the top 10% most deprived areas of the UK. It has a local, national and international reputation for youth work, crime/anti-social behaviour reduction and community capacity-building.

The outbreak of Covid-19 in early 2020 led to the immediate closure of many of our services and facilities, as a direct instruction from the UK government, on 24th March 2020. A skeleton staff have occupied the building every day to continue food-bank distribution and to cater for the needs of our most vulnerable residents and young people. The building was thoroughly deep cleaned prior to shut down and many areas were closed off, however it was checked daily for any damage; graffiti; vandalism; signs of intrusion or utilities failure- none of which were found.

Canterbury City Council (CCC) continued to be responsible for checking and maintaining the Fire alarm and fire safety systems; water temperatures & Legionella; the heating systems and boilers throughout this period, and all refuse was removed from the building and grounds. Staff on site remained socially distanced at all times and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and appropriate cleaning products were purchased and used as necessary. The staff team communicated with each other at least daily via telephone, email and social media to support and monitor those furloughed, homeworking, and all staff mental and physical well-being. Throughout the temporary shutdown the building remained safe, clean and legal- in line with our insurance requirements and HSE recommendations.

**Recovery Plan:**

Moving forward in line with staged government advice and relaxed lockdown protocols, **the health and safety needs of our staff and volunteers and of *all* our visitors, must be paramount** -during what is still, an unprecedented national and international emergency. Using strict measures of prevention and control, we will take every precaution to gradually enable the phased and safe re-occupancy of the building, **to make sure *everyone* feels safe, comfortable and reassured.** This will involve; identifying new risks; putting in new resources; additional reporting and monitoring; close collaboration with users, and being resilient and adaptable to change.

Changes will include: A re-opening Safety Check-list (ii); Enhanced and stringent cleaning regimes; appropriate clear signage, including distance markers, directional arrows and information posters (iii &iv) consistent with government guidelines, throughout the building; physical changes to the working environment to reduce risk; jointly negotiated and reviewed staff deployment and working protocols (i), and carefully considered reduction in usage and in capacity, to allow for social distancing.

*This document reflects our best knowledge at this time, it will be updated continually to incorporate new learning & initiatives as they arise.* **June 2020**