



Front Elevation



Proposed Section

## THE PEOPLE PLACE

This project provided the opportunity to define a new use for an empty retail unit in Chester. 4 Foregate Street has been reimagined as a homeless centre, providing a dignified and private space designed to be functional and fulfil the needs of the users.

‘Currently, the Council does not commission any daytime activities, which often leaves homeless individuals without meaningful activities or support during the daytime.’ This quote was taken from Cheshire West and Chester council’s 2017 homeless consultation. 5 years later and it is still true. This proposal will provide anyone with the facility to get advice and support, have a shower, do laundry, eat, rest and gain skills, things that most people see as a basic human right. 4 Foregate Street is an ideal space with the basement providing a private and dignified place for the users. Homelessness isn’t an inevitability. It is part of a cycle that can be broken. It isn’t just solved by putting a roof over somebody’s head, it is a process of support, intervention, and opportunities.



# ~~HOMELESS~~ PERSON

## HOMELESSNESS ISN'T SOLVED BY SIMPLY PUTTING A ROOF OVER SOMEBODY'S HEAD

HOMELESSNESS CAN BE IDENTIFIED AS A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION, EVEN IN STATES THAT HAVE ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO ADDRESS IT.

IT IS STIGMATISED AND OFTEN ADDRESSED WITH CRIMINALISATION, VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSIVE POLICIES THAT VIOLATE RATHER THAN SAFEGUARD

THE RIGHTS OF THE PERSON INVOLVED

THE LACK OF AN ADDRESS AFFECTS THEIR

POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS,

SUCH AS THEIR PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS, THEIR RIGHT TO WORK

AND THEIR RIGHT TO ACCESS BENEFITS.

CRISIS ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE **227,000** HOMELESS PEOPLE IN THE UK. THE NORTH WEST HAS THE HIGHEST RATE OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN THE WHOLE UK.

THIS SPACE, WILL PROVIDE **ANYONE** IN NEED WITH THE FACILITY TO GET ADVICE AND SUPPORT, HAVE A SHOWER, DO LAUNDRY, EAT, REST

AND GAIN SKILLS, THINGS MOST PEOPLE SEE AS A **BASIC HUMAN RIGHT.**

THE PROVISION OF A DIGNIFIED SPACE TAILORED TO THEIR NEEDS IS ONE STEP CLOSER TO

**BREAKING THE CYCLE OF HOMELESSNESS.**

THE PEOPLE PLACE MANIFESTO

**NIGEL**

Moved from Belfast after being beaten up. During his time on the streets, he suffered a stroke. At this point he was housed but it had to get really bad before he was helped.

**HEATHER**

Has been homeless for six years and has seen the homeless problem in Chester get worse. She was temporarily housed in a hotel during the pandemic but that was stopped when guests returned.

**NORMA**

Her drinking spiralled out of control when her sons were put into care. She has been on the streets for three years. People come up to her and kick her because she is homeless.

**DONITA**

Moved to the UK from Romania six years ago to find work. She lost her job and was forced onto the streets. She is now unable to find a home or return to Romania because of a lack of money and is almost unemployable without an address.

**PAUL**

Has been homeless for nine months after prioritising drugs over rent. He constantly feels hungry and is at risk of hypothermia. He runs the risk of having his belongings stolen every day because of having nowhere to safely store them. There are groups of young lads going round attacking homeless people, they set his friend's sleeping bag on fire whilst he was sleeping in it and another bloke had his face beaten in with a hammer.

**IAN**

Joined the army after leaving school but was pensioned out after a head injury in Bosnia caused epilepsy. He went to France to train as a chef and worked around the world. As a result of his marriage breaking down he has since been evicted from his flat and became homeless about a year ago.

**GUY**

Left school with no qualifications and has since completed six jail sentences for motorbike theft and drug possession.

**LEE**

Found himself living on the streets after his Mum died, as she was a council tenant. Lee and his brother had no rights over the family home and were forced onto the streets. He has been told that there is a four year wait for a council property and a six-month waiting list for temporary accommodation. He is constantly in fear, wondering where his next meal will come from and whether he can trust the person who is looking after his stuff when he goes to the toilet.

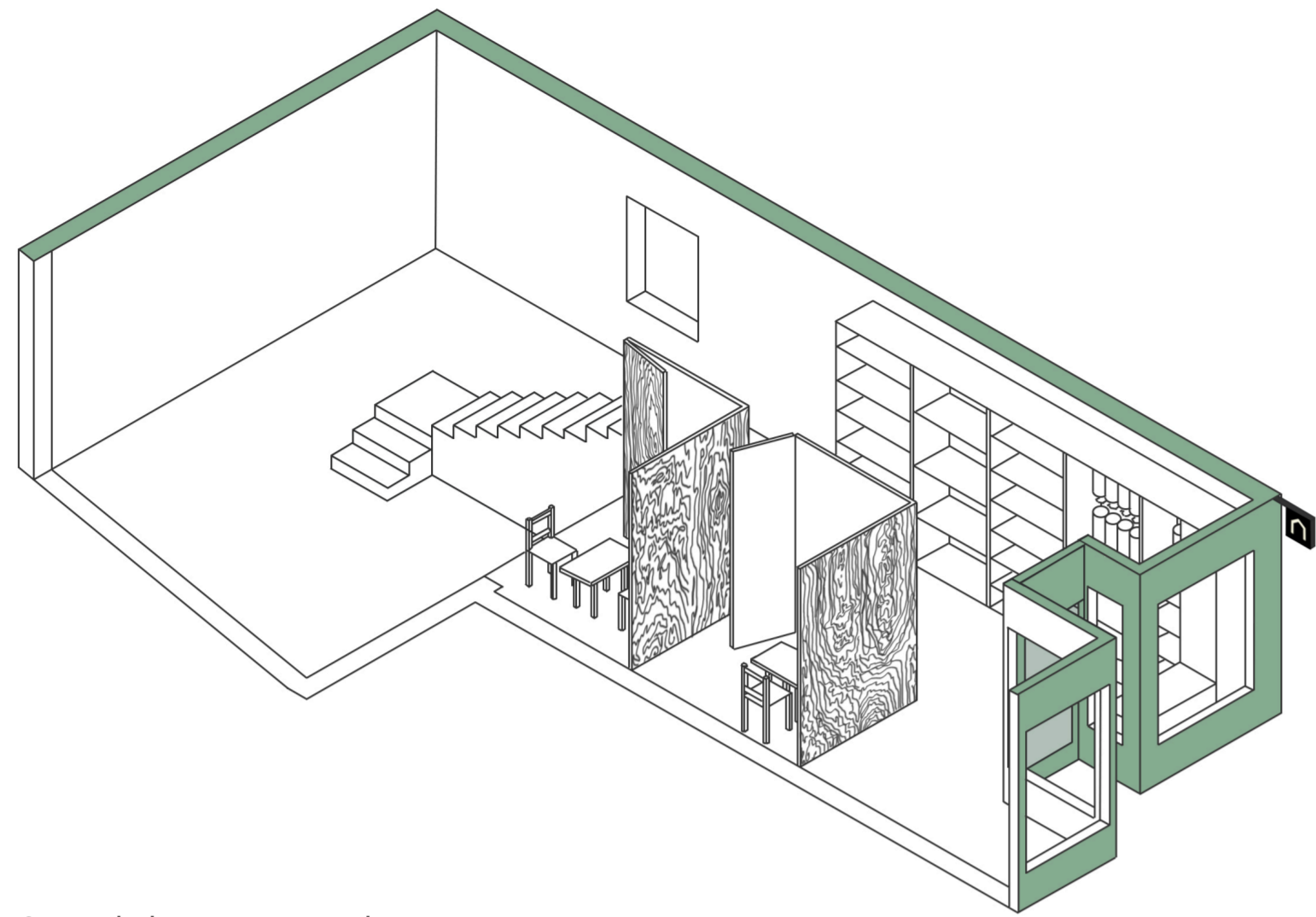
**TOM**

Was put into care at the age of twelve and began taking drugs and getting into crime. He has slept rough on and off since the age of thirteen. Finally got somewhere to live but was evicted due to bedroom tax.

## HOMELESS STORIES





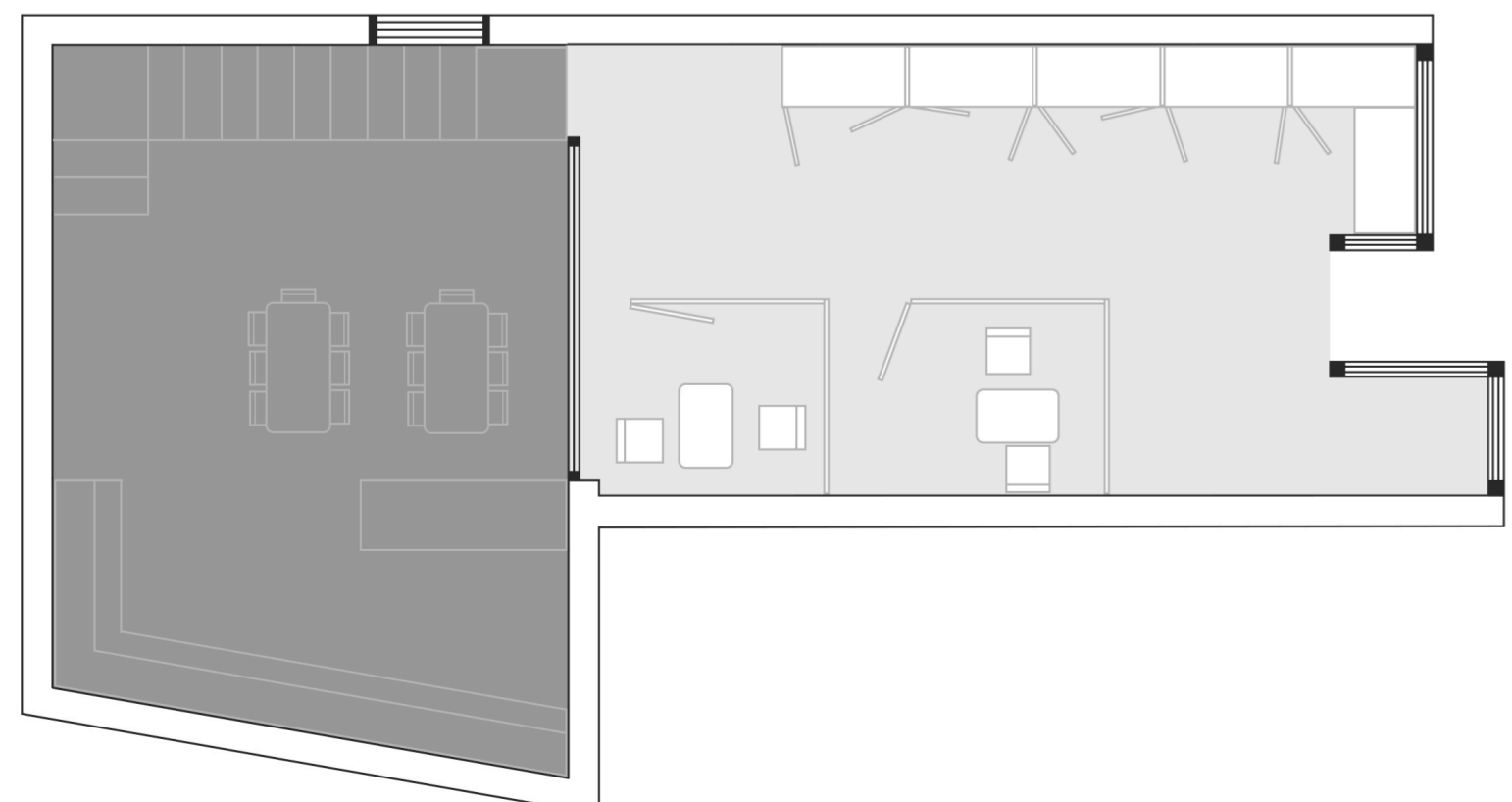


Ground Floor Axonometric



## THE GROUND FLOOR

The ground floor provides a flexible space with cupboards storing free, essential supplies and pods that fold out, creating a private space where support can be provided. The provision of these pods creates a safe space for people to get support in all sorts of forms. Drop-in GP clinics and advice for jobs and finance are often inaccessible but crucial for homeless people as these steps are just as important in breaking the cycle of homelessness as putting a roof over someone's head.



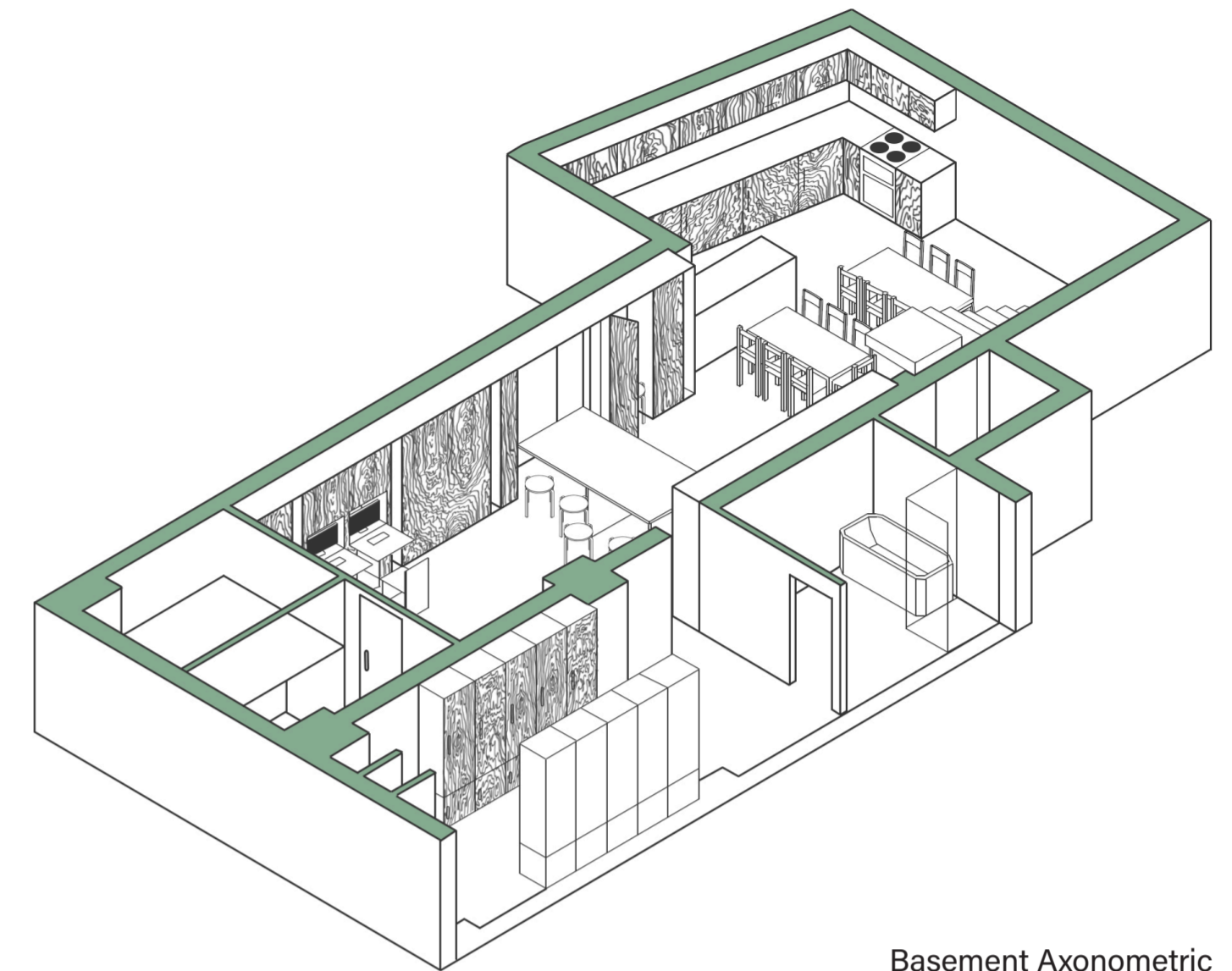
Proposed Ground Floor Plan

(Above): View of Pods Folding Out (Below): View of Pods In Use





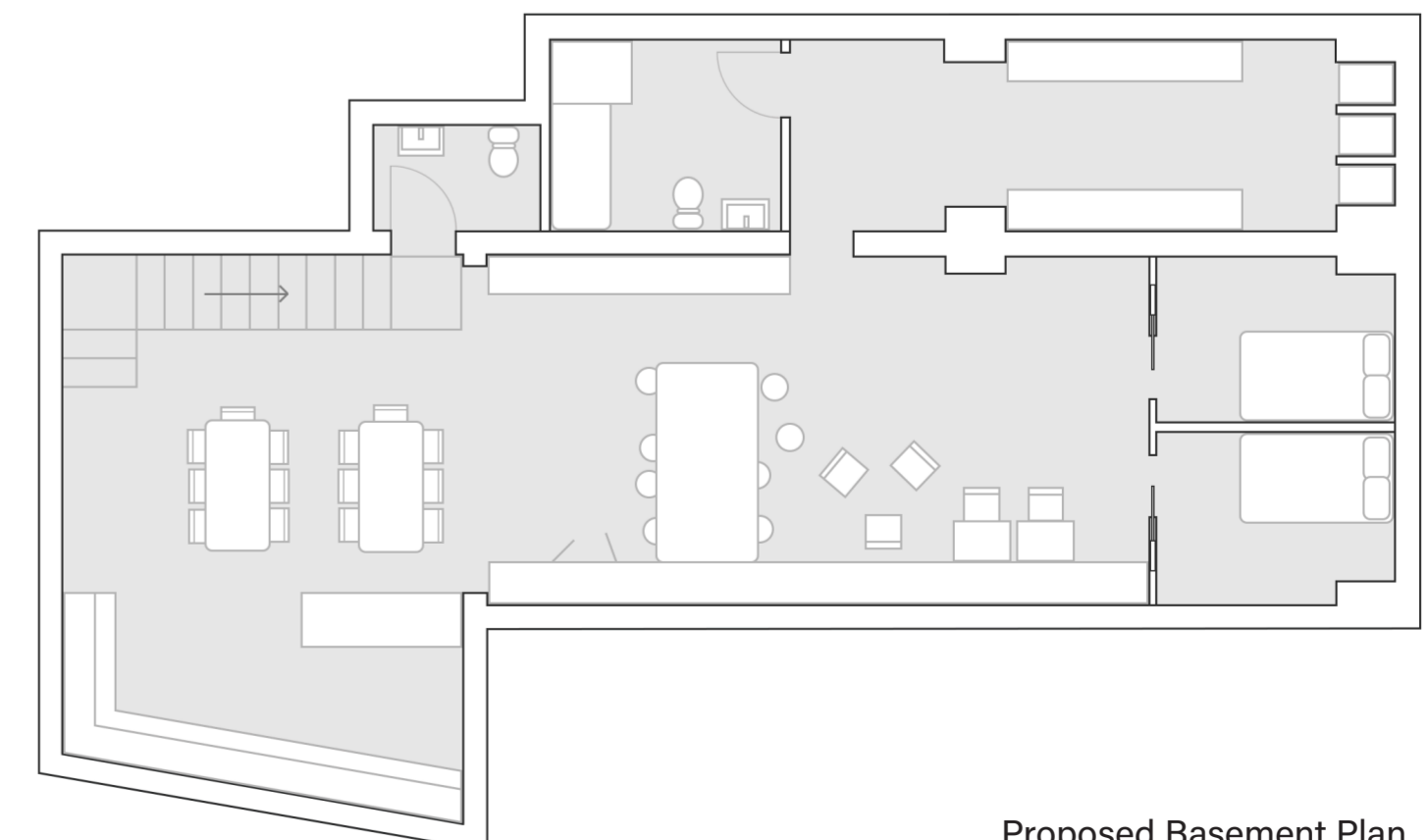
(Above) View of Communal Kitchen (Below) View of Fold Out Cupboard and Activity Space



Basement Axonometric

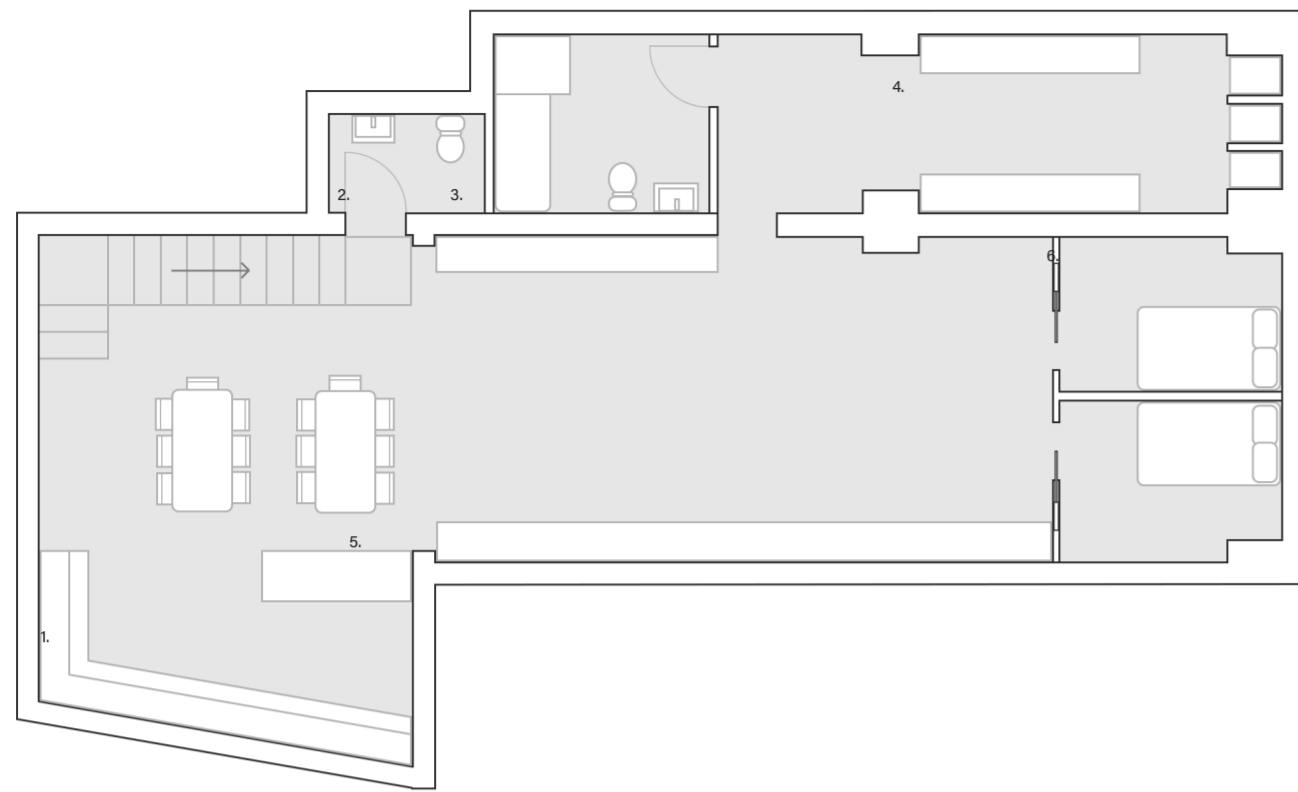
## THE BASEMENT

The basement provides a private and dignified place for the users to 'be themselves'. The kitchen can function as catered or self-serve and is equipped to allow classes to take place, providing the opportunity to gain skills. The main room features a large activity space with a fold out cupboard which provides an area where users can participate in other classes to help improve their skills and employability. The provision of lockers allow users to store their belongings as on the streets, they often have nowhere to store what is most important to them. Two private sleep pods are a space for users to relax, regather and occupy a space that is theirs. Two accessible toilets, a shower and a bath as well as a laundrette provide access to utilities that most people take for granted.



Proposed Basement Plan

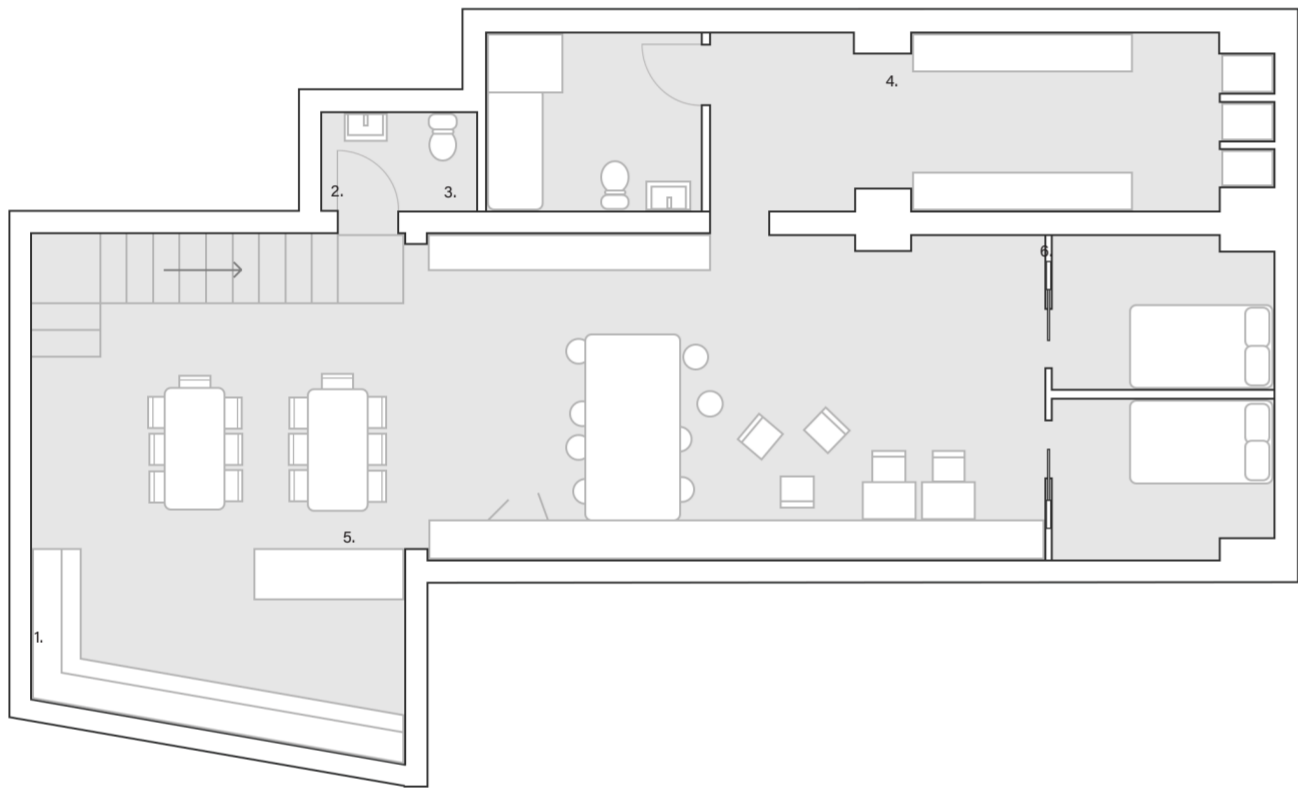




- 1. KITCHEN
- 2. TOILET
- 3. BATHROOM
- 4. LOCKERS AND LAUNDRY
- 5. FOLD OUT CUPBOARD
- 6. SLEEPING PODS

The cupboard is shut, creating a large space for activities and classes to take place.

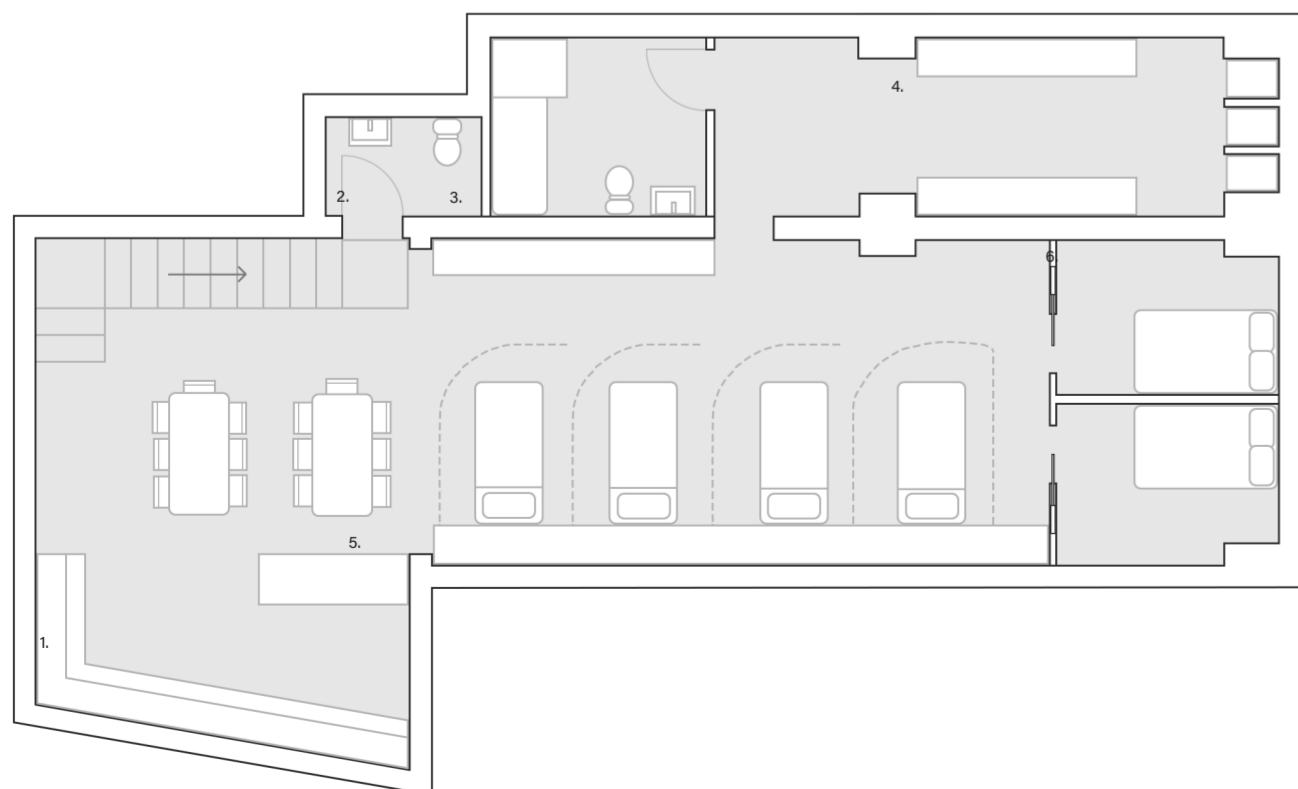
## BASEMENT PLAN SCENARIO 1



- 1. KITCHEN
- 2. TOILET
- 3. BATHROOM
- 4. LOCKERS AND LAUNDRY
- 5. FOLD OUT CUPBOARD
- 6. SLEEPING PODS

The cupboard is fully open. The table, stools and chairs are out and the computers are in use.

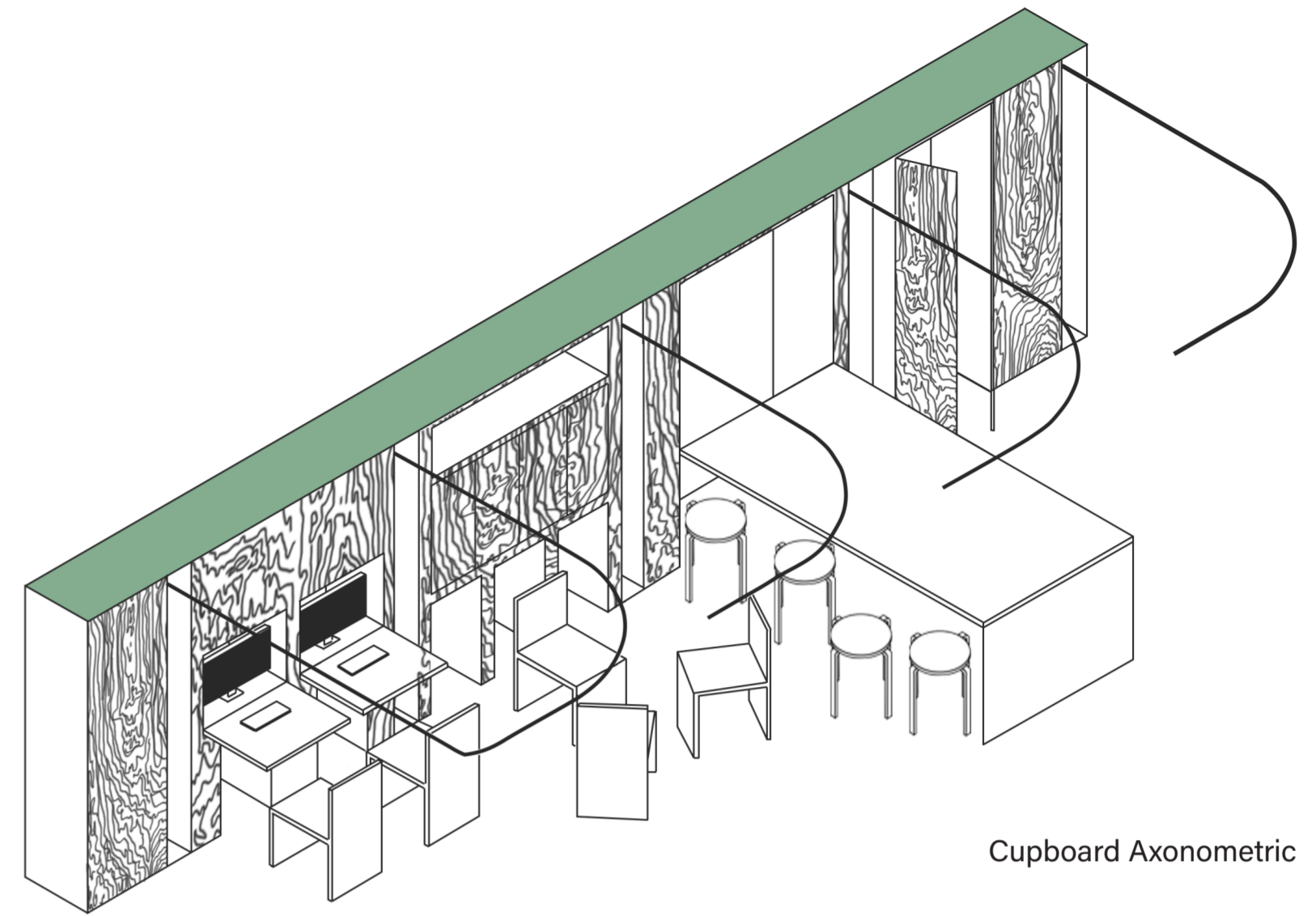
## BASEMENT PLAN SCENARIO 2



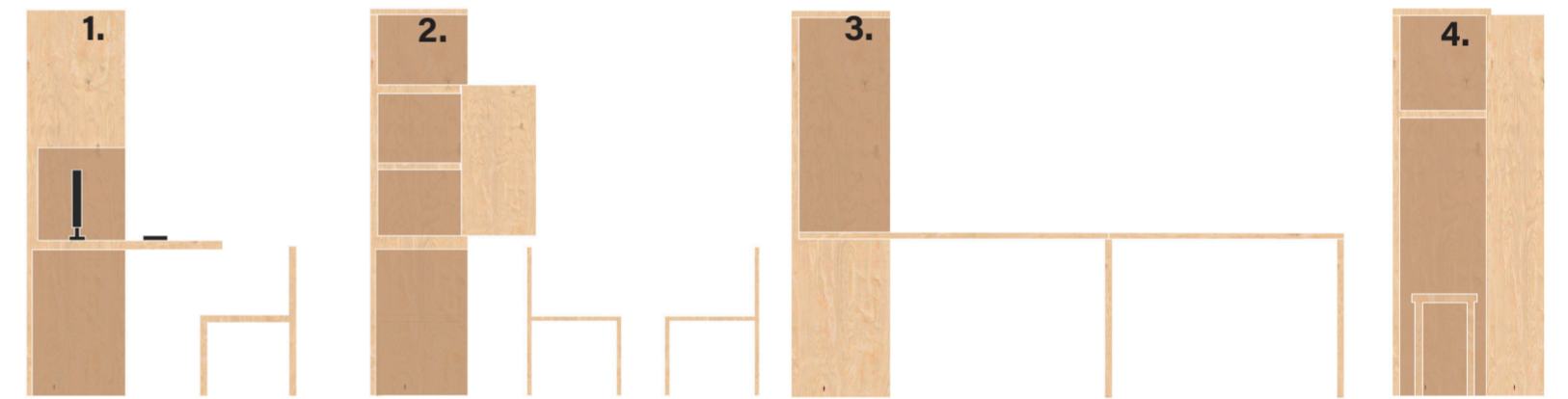
- 1. KITCHEN
- 2. TOILET
- 3. BATHROOM
- 4. LOCKERS AND LAUNDRY
- 5. FOLD OUT CUPBOARD
- 6. SLEEPING PODS

The cupboard is closed and beds have been brought out from storage to provide emergency accommodation with the curtains for privacy.

## BASEMENT PLAN SCENARIO 3



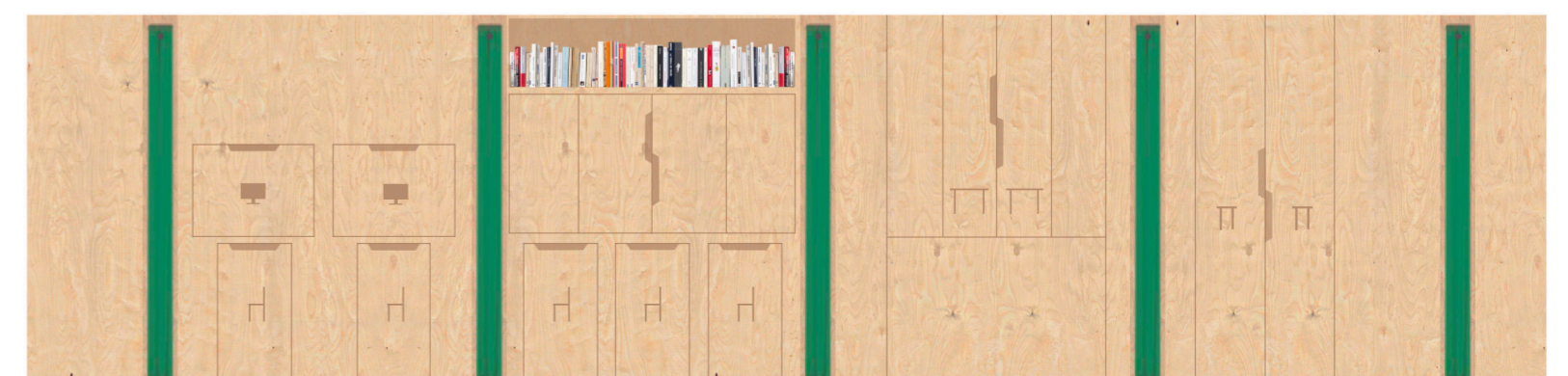
Cupboard Axonometric



Cupboard Sections

## THE CUPBOARD

The fold out cupboard allows the space to function as an activity space or as a large, open space. Section one folds out to provide a desk and computer and pull out chairs. Section two provides a cupboard space and more pull out chairs. Section three folds out into a large table for group activities to take place around. Section 4 is a cupboard, storing stools and other equipment. Curtain rails on the ceiling allow curtains to be pulled out and separate each area. Beds brought out from storage can also be separated by the curtains, providing emergency accommodation for 4.



Cupboard Front Elevation