

The James Cond rehabilitation centre

Welcome to the **James Cond Rehabilitation centre**, located in the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham. The facility will be opened in the Spring of 2023 and will be funded by the Birmingham City council for the local citizens of the area.

The design proposal focuses on giving opportunities to ex-convicts and those who have been previously accused of a crime. Birmingham's current crime rate is at an all-time high, with more than 2/3 of ex-convicts recommitting a crime within the first year of leaving prison. And those who have been accused of a crime, to which they never committed, are more than likely to be left homeless, jobless and suffering with mental illness.

The sole purpose is to allow equal opportunities, to allow these citizens to feel accepted and place themselves back into society comfortably, but also allowing them to feel physically and mentally secure.

The current building is only in use as a car park, this design proposal will allow a deep layer of connection towards the citizens and the site. Within the rehabilitation centre will be a community area, which consist of a communal garden, Gym, Library, computer space, and a cafe along with private and public meeting spaces and residential areas.

The outcome for the function of the design proposal is to reduce crime in Birmingham, reducing crime being repeated and to monitor citizens mental health, fundamentally it's about creating equal opportunities and allowing everyone to feel secure.

Client & users:



**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL:**  
The local government are responsible for the governance of the city of Birmingham. They are responsible for the welfare of the community as well as council tax, schools, support for local business's, travel, and recycling etc.



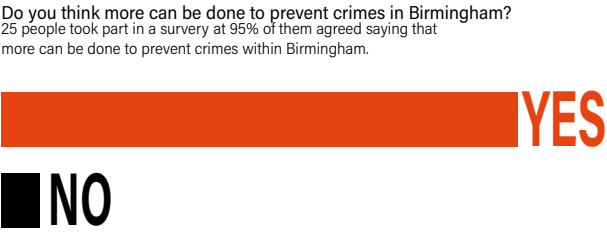
**LOCAL PRISONS:**  
For my design proposal, the facility will need to link with local prisons. That way if a convict is leaving, they can rely on the facility for short term accommodation or further job opportunities.



**EX CONVICTS:**  
Finally, my main user are ex-convicts/ people who have been accused of a crime. They will be living, working, socialising within the design proposal.

**60%** of adults who left prison in 2016 reoffended within 12 months of leaving.

**39%** of people who leave prison re commit a crime within the first 12 months of leaving.



Section B-B



“For some victims, the impact of the **wrongful conviction** maybe comparable to - or **even worse** than that of their **original victimization**”

USER PROFILE:



Alexandru Stan was acquitted of conspiring to burgle multi-millionaire Tamara Ecclestone's home in London. Several items were stolen in December of 2019. He was accused of committing he burglary, he was left homeless shortly after, describing as he has 'lost everything.'

Alexandru has been living in London since June 2019, he worked full time as a waiter and then soon after managed to gain a place at Suffolk university studying business, however after he was arrested he lost his place, and was even evicted from his home in Harow.

After being released and found not guilty, he has found great difficul-ty to get his life back on track. He described after being released he struggled to find anywhere to live and slept at either a friend's house or in his car.

**25%** of people are wrongly accused of crime in the UK each year

Liam Allan, a 22-year-old student, was charged with 12 accounts of rape and sexual assault. He had been under investigation for two years.

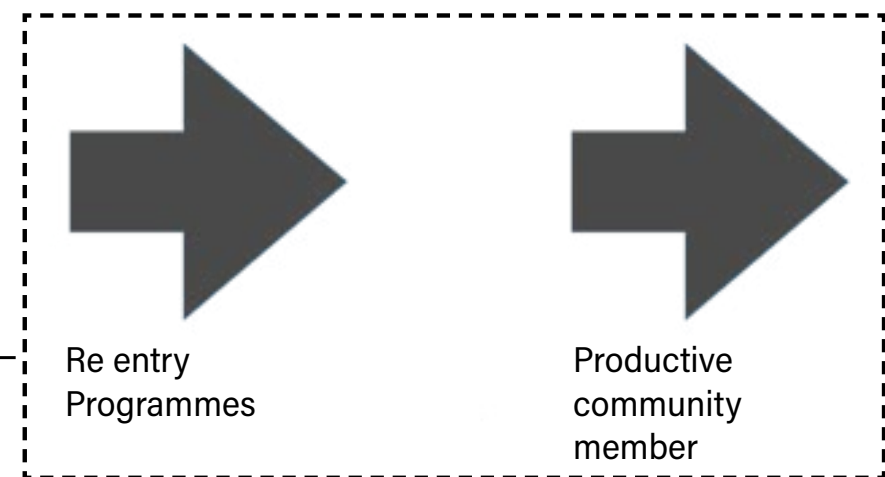
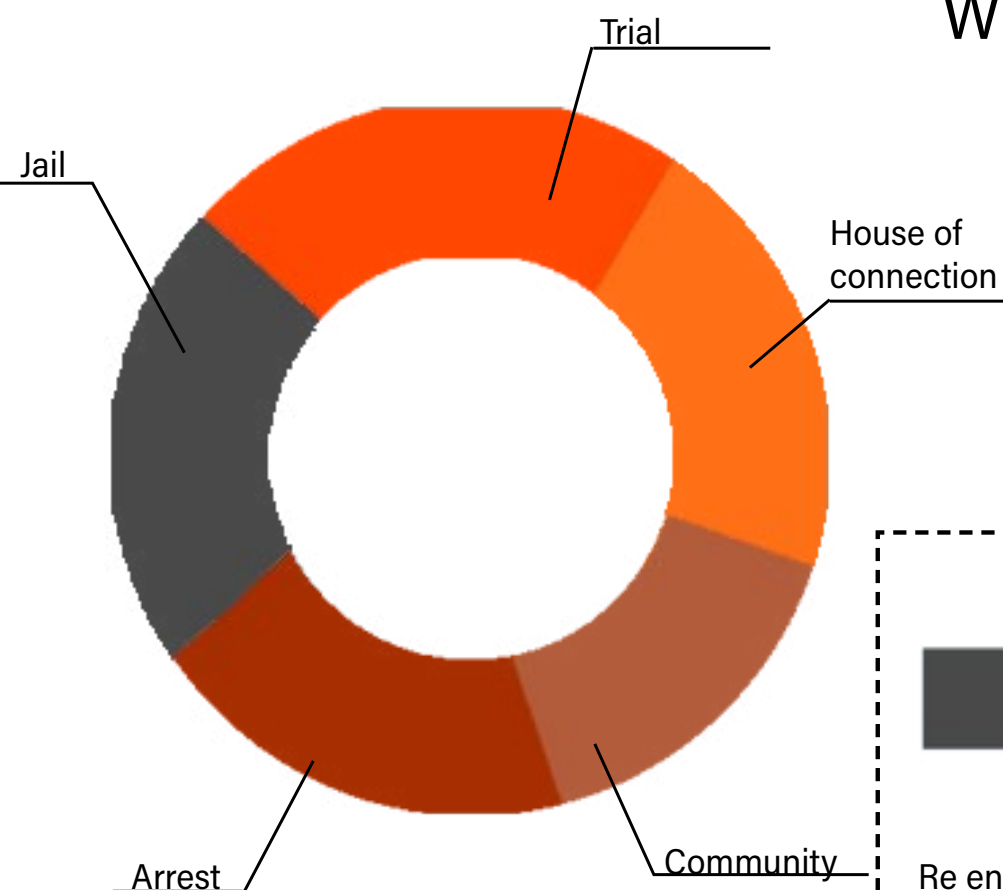
Liam claims "There were certain messages that were plucked specifically to go against me." He describes his experience over the last two years as, "Every day is just sort of a different battle, you either wake up and you give up on the day or you wake up and you're ready to sort of face the day"

After he was charged with the sexual assault, he was immediately dropped from his course at University and was unable to gain employment for those two years.



'no one helped me, my friends tried to do something, but no one is helping'

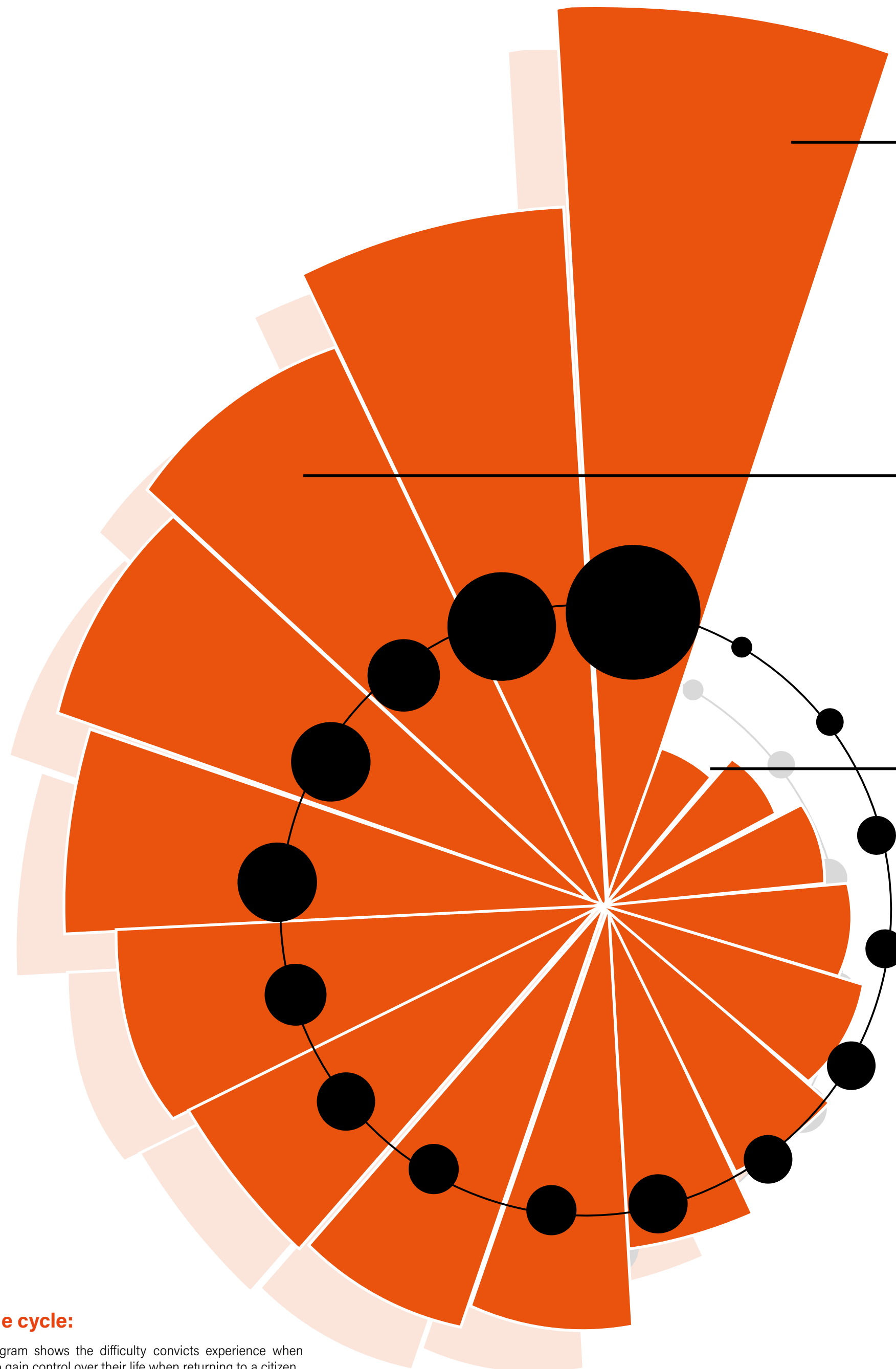
**TWO THIRDS** OF HOMELESS EX CONVICTS RE OFFEND WITHIN THE FIRST **YEAR**



Crime cycle:

The diagram shows the difficulty convicts experience when trying to gain control over their life when returning to a citizen.

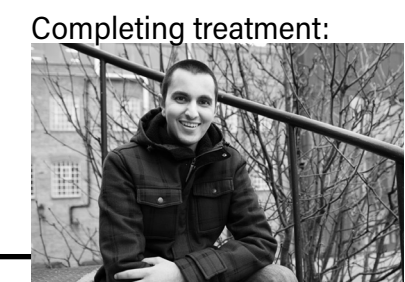
I strongly believe that for my design proposal I need to focus on creating a centre where people can come and feel safe. To reduce crime within the area and to stop people from relapsing with crime there needs to be more facilities open to help ex-convicts.



When entering the facility, the user will be homeless, jobless, and potentially suffering with mental health illness. They will need basic human needs such as, a bedroom, food, and social interaction with others.



The next stage will be the development stage. This will take place within the community centre, where the users can develop their mental, physical, creative and education skills which can encourage them to gain employment within the area.



Finally, the last stage will be for the users who are thinking about replacing into crime. Private therapy and office spaces will be designed on the second floor of the building to allow for maximum privacy. This part of the timeline will be on going, additional support will be made for all users who continue to struggle after leaving prison.

**Aims & Objectives:**

Giving ALL users the same equal opportunity to grow and become independent individuals.

The proposal focuses on creating a safe haven, a community to develop physical, mental and educational skills.

Finally, respecting and nurturing the users to feeling comfortable. It's about allowing them to feel secure enough with themselves and society.

USER TIMELINE:



Dynamic Catagraphy:



The act of violence:

The concept of 'violence' comes from the act of violence which occurs between people resulting them in becoming imprisoned or facing punishment.

However, within my proposal I want to challenge the definition further. Could violence instead be an invasion of color, or a conflict between two materials?

As part of my development I wanted to explore movement in more detail. Because I believe that violence has connotations towards actions and how we behave.

From this exploration I took a form of 'skin'. I thought it would be interesting if I could develop this idea further and have an installation which runs through my space.



Creating a community:

I believe that it's important to *merge the users together so they can develop their social skills*. That way it enables them to feel more comfortable when entering society, they will be able to gain employment but also more confident talking to others.

Modular seating is the best way to merge the different users It's an opportunity for others to mix and become vulnerable with one another, and potentially share stories

**RED:**

Red can be bold and dramatic or warm and earthy, depending on the tone. Deep crimson hues create passion and drama, while rusty shades can add a cosy ambience. *Red also causes anxiousness, more spontaneous and anxious behaviour.*

**ORANGE:**

Orange hues are bright, fun and energetic. Since orange is a combination of red and yellow, it makes sense that it would have all the vivacity and warmth of both. Used in large quantities, orange can feel overwhelming, but softer peachy or terracotta shades can be cozy and calming.

VS

Different levels of vulnerability:

- I've seperated the interiors to suit the 3 different users that will be using the facility. As you continue to travel up the building you start to adapt and become more vulnerable and private.
- **The full - time user.** The full time user uses the community centre and the facilities there to develop their skills in order to gain knowledge to reintegrate back into society.
  - **The short - term user.** Through research I found that an ex convict is 2/3 more likely to re commit a crime if they are homeless. To reduce this static and to accomodate those who are homeless, a residential level has been included for those who need it.
  - **The returning user.** Those seeking treatment who have been struggling personally and are thinking of relapsing back into committing a crime.

Private meeting area:

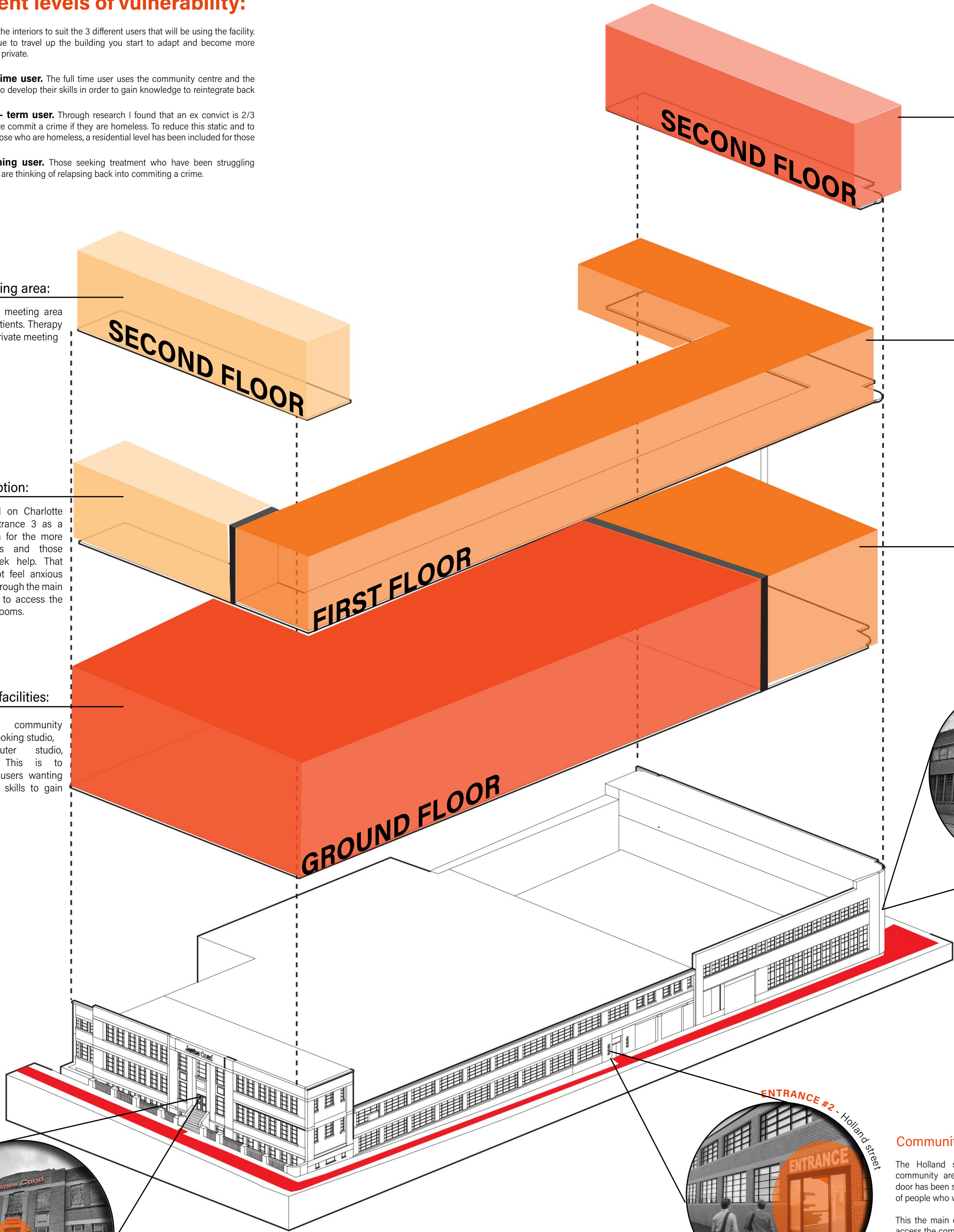
2nd floor, private meeting area for vulnerable patients. Therapy room, GP and private meeting offices

Private reception:

1st floor, located on Charlotte street, using entrance 3 as a private reception for the more vulnerable users and those returning to seek help. That way they do not feel anxious whilst walking through the main community area to access the private meeting rooms.

Community facilities:

Ground floor, community facilities, GYM, cooking studio, library, Computer studio, pottery class. This is to accomodate all users wanting to develop their skills to gain employment.



Staff facilities

2nd floor area which is open to only staff, with toilets, shower room, storage and staff room, with lounge and kitchen.

Residential living:

1st floor, private residential area. Private bedrooms with ensuites, living areas, break out area, wash room, and public toilets. Large communal areas to encourage interaction with each other.

Residents canteen:

Canteen for the residents only has been specified on the ground floor, to encourage circulation but also users to interact and be social more.



Residents Entrance:

Using the George street entrance, this will be a private entrance for the residents coming in for the first time, so they can have a private one to one meeting with a professional to help transition them into the space.

Community centre entrance:

The Holland street entrance is for the community area, a large glass automatic door has been specified for the large volume of people who will be entering.

This the main entrance and to be used to access the community centre where a large number of facilities have been designed for the visitors to develop their educational, physical and creative skills.



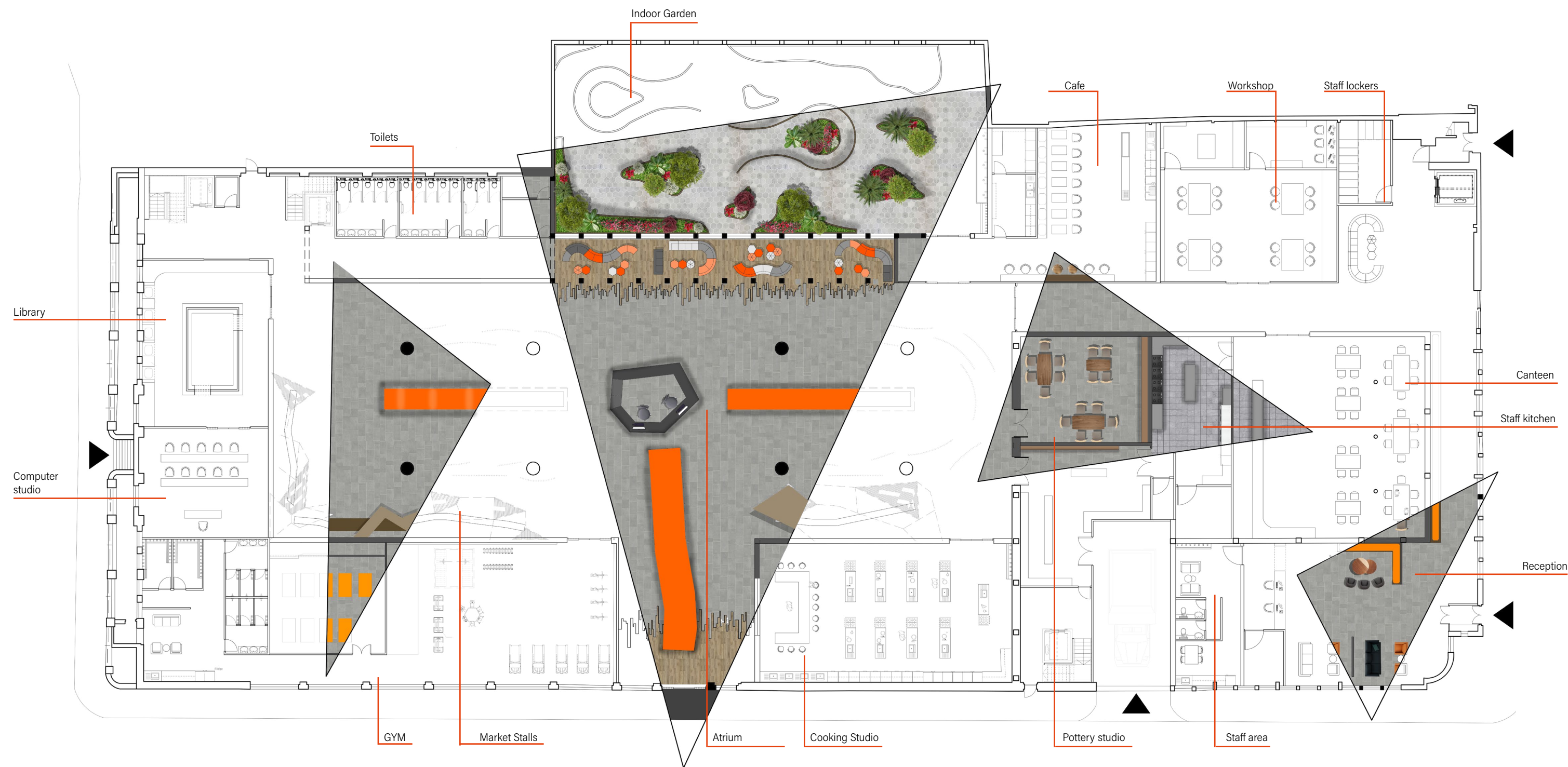
Private entrance

So for the users seeking private help, a seperate entrance will be available for them, that way they don't feel overwhelmed when walking through the main atrium space.





Ground floor:



The food market:



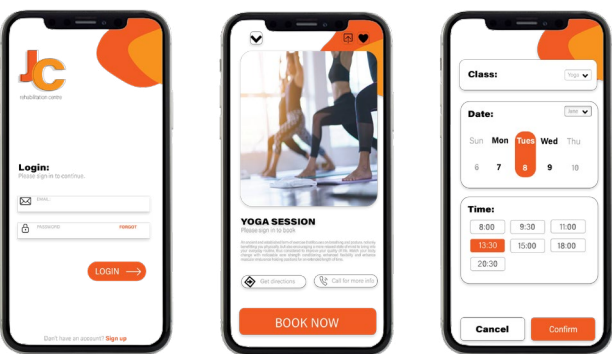
The botanical garden:



Private offices:



Main atrium:



The App:

The app has been designed to give visitors the chance to book any of the facilities available.

Cooking courses, Computer courses, Pottery classes and GYM sessions are made available for the community centre. But instead of them coming in individually to book a class, they can download the app and view what classes are available and book a time which best suits for them.

In order to book all, they have to do is create an account with the James Cond Rehabilitation Centre and then they can access what is available through the weeks.

The community centre:

The Community centre is located on the ground floor and can be accessed through Holland Street. The centre has a variety of facilities available which the visitors can use to develop their educational, physical, social, and mental skills. The sole purpose is to help the users reintegrate back into society.

With the facilities which are made available, for example the cooking studio, the visitors can develop the basic culinary skills to then go on and gain an apprenticeship or other employment with a restaurant.

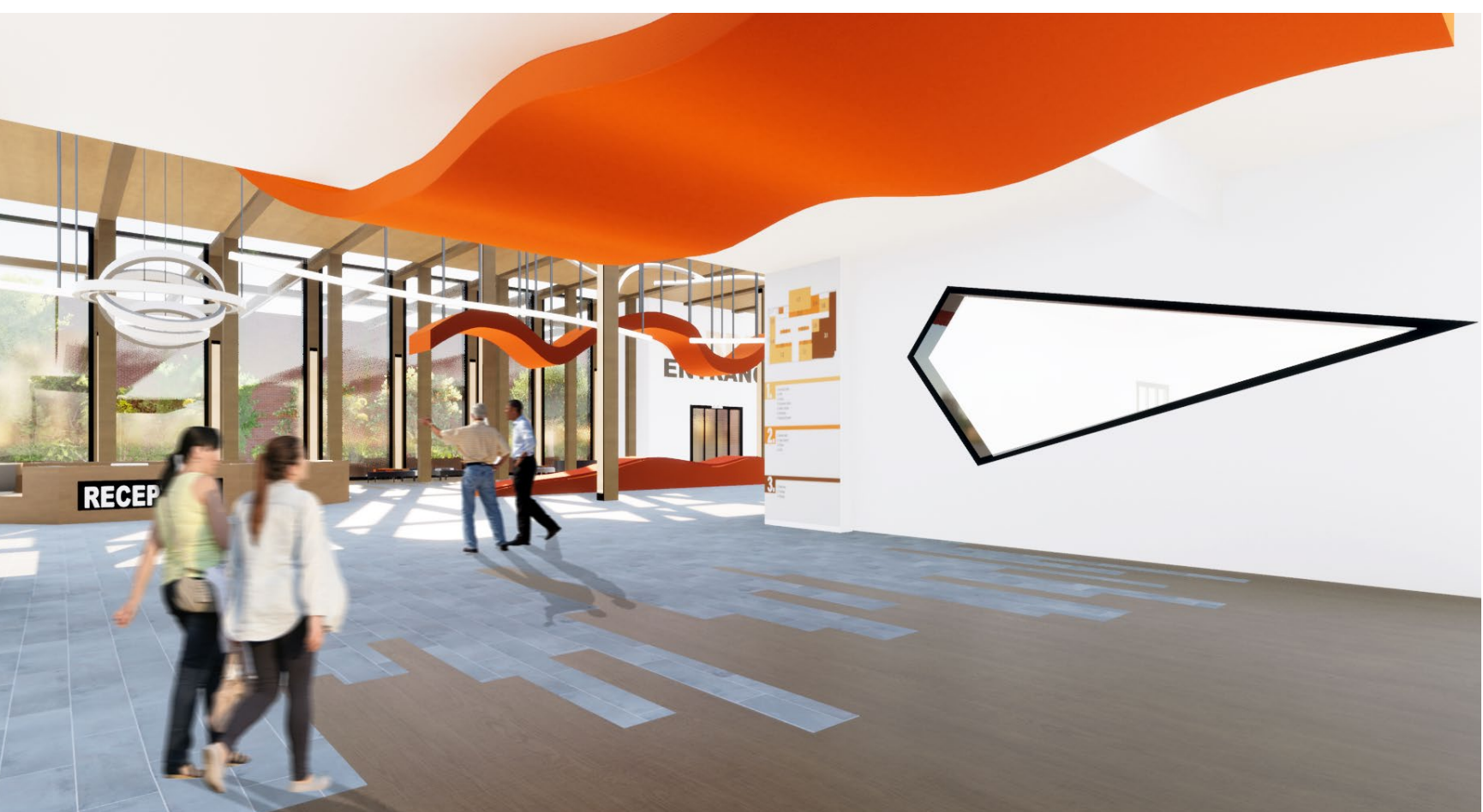
The food market is a key feature to the community centre. It's an opportunity for local businesses to come and sell their products, or possibly others to donate items they no longer need and give to the more vulnerable visitors.

It's also an opportunity for those to gain jobs on the market, selling what they produce and encouraging them to become self-employed.

Potentially every Sunday between 8am - 2pm, fresh produce will be made available for the users to buy items at a cheaper cost and to meet others in their vulnerable position.

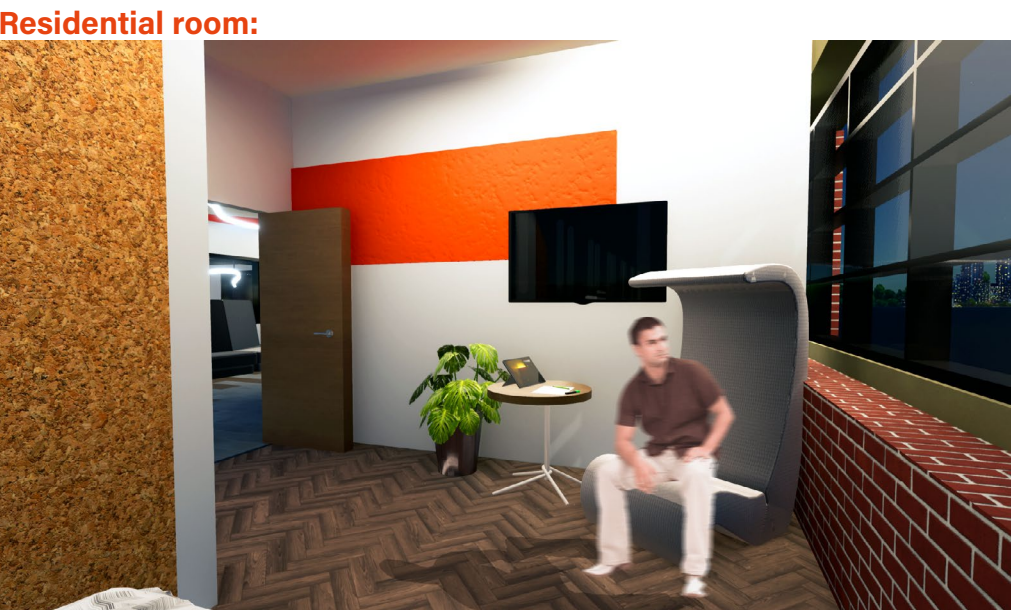
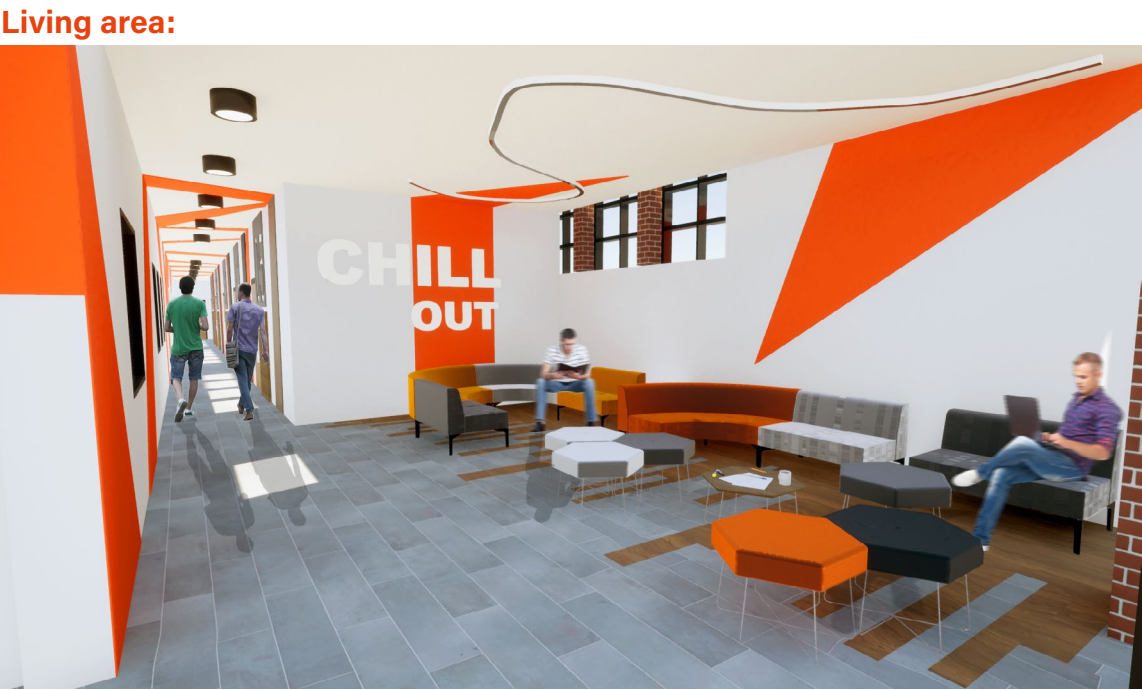
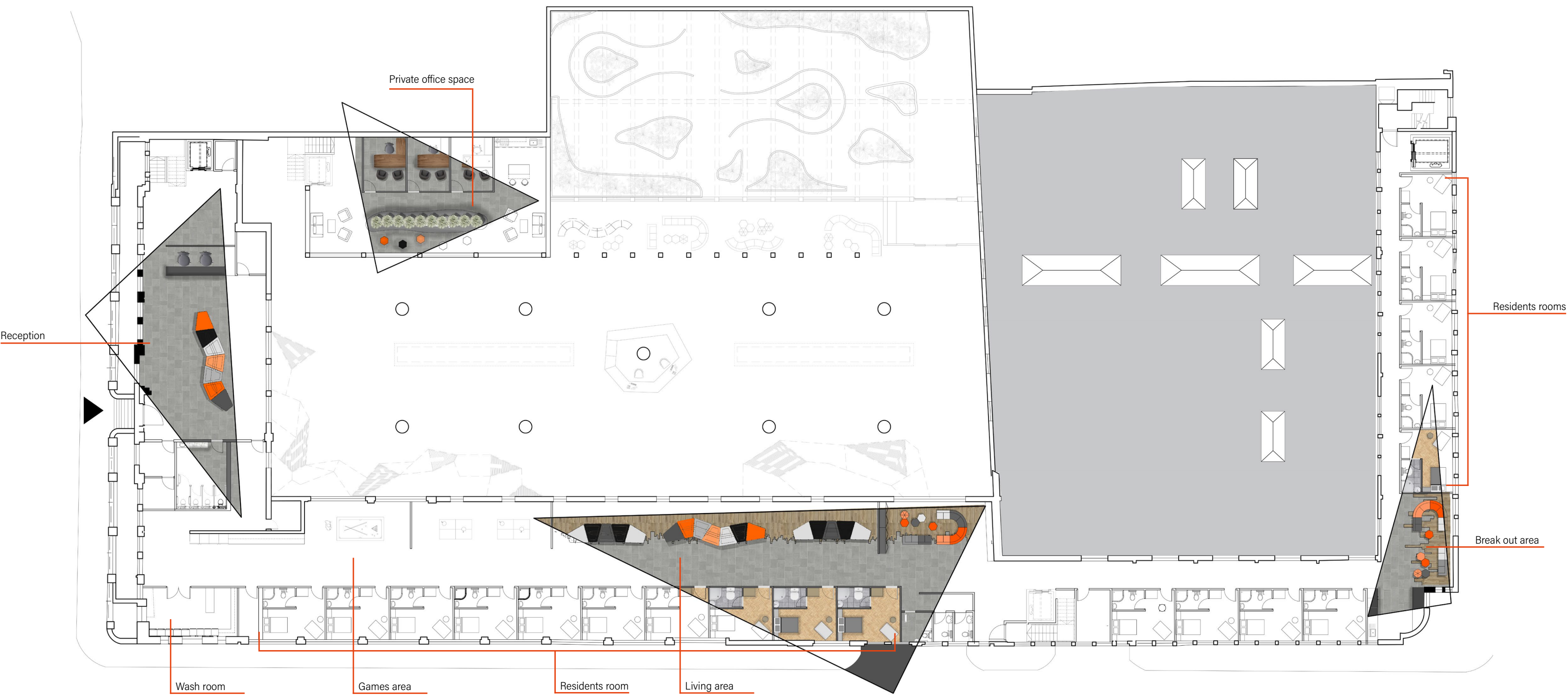
The facilities which have been designed are to give opportunities to allow the visitors to grow and become successful citizens of Birmingham, but also to reduce the crime and violence within the area.

Entrance into Atrium:





First floor:



Residential living:

The first floor is used mainly for the residents staying in the centre. Through my research I found that the reasons why ex-convicts re commit crimes is because they are left homeless when leaving prison, so they go back into crime. Something which they feel comfortable doing.

Furthermore, to reduce crime the facility has 19 short term accommodation rooms for the visitors. Within their rooms is an EnSite, wardrobe, lounge chair and a double bed.

Also, on the first floor are lounge areas designed specifically in between the residential rooms- to encourage the idea of a community. There are large glass windows within the living areas which overlook into the atrium of the community centre, which encourages the users to go and be interactive with each other.

Overall, to give the residents an option to give the room more of their personality, a cork wall strip has been specified to allow for the users to pin any photos or personal items without damaged the walls.

