

# Good Practice - Case Study...

Overview	
Case Study Title:	<b>Support to social housing estate</b>
Summary:	<p>Abbots Langley Children’s Centre’s work on a local social housing estate has helped improve services for families, and provide safe and fun outside spaces for children.</p> <p>With donations from local councillors’ locality budget and approval from the Housing Estate, the children’s centre has erected climbing and interactive play equipment and garden areas to encourage children’s involvement in planting and ‘greening’ the area.</p>
Project	
Target group/Key stage:	Families living on a social housing estate in Boundary Way
Reason for offering activities:	The estate has had a poor reputation in the past, and has some very difficult and challenging youngsters living there. Abbots Langley’s involvement has provided services for these families and helped residents come together and work towards a more positive profile of the estate
Description of activities:	The Children’s Centre have offered various activities from this venue including Baby Massage, Play & Stay, Under 1’, Post Natal Groups, Parenting Support and Little Readers. We are currently running Creative Play, IT sessions and a targeted group called Boundary Way Buddies. The sessions are well attended, particularly the Creative Play and the children really enjoy being able to use the outside area.
Management and Logistics:	Gained approval from the Housing Estate, the children’s centre has erected climbing and interactive play equipment and garden areas to encourage children’s involvement in planting and ‘greening’ the area
Partnerships:	The Children’s Centre have worked very closely with the Community Housing Trust in getting this project up and running. We have also worked closely with the residents on the estate in consulting with them throughout the planning stages, consulting with a range of residents about the possibility of developing the area and the benefits to the residents and

	particularly to the children on the estate.
<b>General benefits of activities:</b> <i>'notable quote / comment.'</i>	<p>Residents come together and work towards a more positive profile of the estate</p> <p>The children’s centre has erected climbing and interactive play equipment and garden areas to encourage children’s involvement in planting and ‘greening’ the area.</p> <p>Mums and Childminders have commented on how lovely it is to have a safe, contained, outside area for the children to enjoy and how lovely it is to have some colourful outdoor equipment.</p>
<b>Timescale of project:</b>	<p>The initial application to the Better Communities Fund for money to finance this project was made on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2010. This application was initially refused. A County Councillor who sits on the CC Advisory Board then invited the Children’s Centre to make an application to his Locality Budget Scheme in the hope of getting some funds from there. The application was submitted and the CC heard on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2010 that this was successful and that Councillor Goggins had awarded £1000 to the CC project. His colleague, Councillor Scudder, also agreed to give the CC £1000 as the estate falls into 2 wards. The CC then went back to the Community Housing Trust and explained that some funds had been secured from other sources. The Housing Trust re submitted the application which was then successful and the remaining funds were then awarded from the Better Communities Fund. The equipment was installed in January 2011.</p>
<b>Cost:</b>	£3925 in total
<b>Key challenges and how these were overcome:</b>	<p>The challenges were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The initial application being refused and</li> <li>➤ The extended time frame in waiting to hear the outcomes of the application</li> <li>➤ Agreement on e.g. height of fence</li> </ul> <p>These were overcome by being patient and persistent and talking to all partners.</p>
<b>3 tips for similar activities:</b>	<p>Be: patient professional persistent</p>
<b>Next Steps:</b>	<p>To continue to offer a variety of services from this venue and utilise the outside area as much as possible.</p> <p>To fully develop the planting of the flower beds and encourage the families to maintain this.</p>

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Outcomes	
<p>Impact of project:</p> <p><i>'notable quote / comment.'</i></p>	<p>Attendance at sessions and registrations have increased since the development of this area.</p>
<p>Impact of project on young people's learning:</p> <p><i>'notable quote / comment.'</i></p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>Impact of project in terms of 'Every Child Matters outcomes':</p> <p><i>'notable quote / comment.'</i></p>	<p><b>Being Healthy:</b> Children enjoy physical activity in outside area</p> <p><b>Staying Safe:</b> It ensures the safeguarding of the children (this is paramount to us in our work) by enclosing the area so it is not easily visible from the outside; it keeps the children physically safe as there are no railings for them to get stuck in, it keeps the area much freer of litter as before the wooden fencing was put in there was a huge amount of litter such as beer cans and bottles, cigarette ends, general rubbish as well as some more undesirable items.</p> <p><b>Enjoy &amp; Achieve:</b> The project has given the families an opportunity to explore new environments and the opportunity to take part in planting/ growing which they may not necessarily have had had before. The children have the opportunity to experience water and sand play and other outdoor 'messy' activities which are new experiences for many of them.</p>
<p>Impact of project in terms of the Core Offer for schools:</p> <p><i>'notable quote / comment.'</i></p>	
<p>Evidence of Impact:</p>	<p>It has been observed that children are happier when attending the sessions as they are able to move freely through the community room and the outside area as fewer restrictions are placed on them now the area is developed and safe.</p>

## CASE STUDIES – EXTENDED SCHOOLS AND CHILDREN’S CENTRES



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