



Insite

Partnerships for Schools
Quarterly
Summer 2008



partnerships for schools

building schools for the future



Message from Tim Byles, Chief Executive

Welcome to the summer edition of *Insite*. Life at PfS continues to be fast-moving and delivery-focused as more local authorities join the programme and as more schools open their gates.

Having demonstrated their ability to hit the ground running on entry to the programme, eight local authorities were selected for a fast-track start to BSF this summer, meaning that young people, teachers and local communities will benefit from new BSF schools earlier than was previously possible. Elsewhere, this coming September will see new schools opening in nine local authorities the length and breadth of the country.

In the last edition of *Insite*, we highlighted the significance of the past 12 months for PfS in terms of delivery, with BSF hitting its stride and achieving or exceeding all delivery targets for the financial year. Building on this, the late spring saw Ministerial approval for the recommendations of the Procurement Review which was carried out on our behalf by PwC. These recommendations follow on from the improvements made to the pre-procurement process (delivering up to six months reduction in this phase of the process) and look set to reduce delivery timescales by a further two months. The reforms are also projected to deliver savings of up to £250m to the bidding community. These recommendations are now being implemented and will come into force with authorities in Wave 5. A further review on the Operational LEP phase of BSF is now also under way, with initial feedback due in the early autumn. More about this review on page 3.

The last few months also saw PfS assume responsibility for the three support contracts with 4ps, NCSL and CABE. Creating a 'single gateway' for BSF, this transfer of responsibility from the DCSF signals a wider move across government that will see departments assume a more strategic function and devolve more delivery issues to agency bodies. You can read more about this on page 5.

But as well as pressing ahead with improving the processes and support mechanisms that surround the programme, early indications of the difference that BSF is making on the ground are also most encouraging. Independent research carried out for PfS by the NFER illustrates the positive impact that the new learning environment is having on students and teachers at the Bristol Brunel Academy – one of the first BSF schools to open. Key findings of the research include an increased sense of pride, enjoyment and safety amongst students and teachers, and significant reductions in anti-social behaviours, such as bullying and graffiti. Further findings from the NFER report can be found on page 6

All of this progress, however, must be seen against a challenging economic backdrop. We monitor market engagement and activity very closely – and will continue to do so – and all current indicators suggest that the market continues to be a healthy and vibrant one. Indeed, over the last few months, three new private sector players alone have indicated their intention to enter the market.

As we move towards the start of the autumn term, the coming months promise to be as busy as those just gone. Following the opening of over 20 schools this September, we will be hosting our Annual Conference on the 18 September in London, focusing on sharing lessons learned and experiences to date. Later in the autumn we will be hosting our first design-focused conference, in partnership with *The Guardian*, and this will be followed by the inaugural Excellence in BSF Awards. Details of all of these can be found on page 10 and also on our new website. I hope to see many of you at these events.

As ever, we welcome your comments on this edition of *Insite*. As previously, we have opted not to print this publication as part of our commitment to reduce our paper usage, so please don't print it unless you really need to.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Byles'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent 'T' and 'B'.

Tim Byles CBE
Chief Executive



Project update & news

BSF Waves 1-3

Seven Wave 1 local authorities are preparing for new schools to open in time for the new school year in September 2008: a total of 22 secondary schools are on target to open, bringing the BSF total to 35. We will feature the new schools in the next edition of *Insite*.

Nottingham and Islington's BSF projects reached Financial Close, and Middlesbrough has chosen its Selected Bidder.

Construction began on Wave 2 projects in Hackney and Nottingham.

Bristol's second BSF school, Bristol Metropolitan College, was officially opened in July. The school, a specialist language college, replaces Whitefield Fishponds Community School.

BSF Waves 4-6

In Wave 4, Blackburn with Darwen, Cambridgeshire and Somerset are preparing to advertise their projects with OJEU.

The Wave 6 projects of Bournemouth & Poole and Portsmouth have officially entered the programme, having had their initial remit meeting.

BSF Waves 7-9

In March, the local authorities allocated to Waves 7-9 of BSF were invited by the Department for Children, School and Families (DCSF) and Pfs to make submissions for early entry into BSF.

Eight local authorities made successful submissions (based on being able to demonstrate their readiness), and will be fast-tracked to join BSF from this summer: Enfield, Hounslow, North Tyneside, Rotherham, Southampton, Staffordshire, Walsall and Worcestershire.

These local authorities can now start developing projects to rebuild and refurbish the five secondary schools in their areas most in need of investment. The estimated value of the projects is £625 million.

Future Waves

The DCSF consultation on Waves 7-15 closed in July. The written submissions, plus feedback from three workshops held in York and London, are now being considered. The results are expected later in 2008.

For more information about the progress of BSF projects, go to the Pfs website: www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/programme/progress.jsp

Academies

The Academies team at Pfs is currently engaged on 102 projects which have reached Expression of Interest stage. 48 Academies are being delivered through the BSF LEP process and 54 through the National Framework.

21 Academy OBCs have been approved to date. Three projects have reached FBC Darlington, Milton Keynes and more recently Southwark.

We are on schedule to spend £2.45 billion at the end of CSR 2007-2011 on the Academies programme. As a result of the considerable uptake of projects within the national framework driven by acceleration and early procurement success we are fast approaching the £2 billion OJEU limit of the National Framework procurement.

For more information about the progress of Academy projects through BSF and the National Framework, go to the Pfs website: www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/programme/academies_progress.jsp

News in brief

This new section of *Insite* provides a round-up of interesting snippets of information we pick up through our contacts with local authorities, private sector contractors and our government partners. If you have a 'snippet' that you think *Insite* readers would be interested in, please send it to insite@p4s.org.uk.

Hull students are playing an active role in helping shape the city's BSF programme. Force-7, a team of sixth formers from Hymers College named last year as the UK's top Young Enterprise company, is managing a youth consultation project involving around 500 young people to provide feedback on BSF proposals. Meanwhile Dez Greenwood, a Year 7 student at Pickering High School, has won a local competition to name one Hull's three new academies with his entry, **Sirius Academy**. Elaine Wadsworth, headteacher, said: "It is fitting Sirius is the name of the brightest star in the night sky – something we want all our students to be, stars of the future."

Young pupils have signed up to an exciting future as work begins on their new multimillion-pound school in **Sunderland**. The students at Washington School, who have helped shape the vision for the building's transformation, signed a section of steel which will be laid in the foundations. Builders are now on site at the Spout Lane premises to start work on the £20 million facilities.

Bristol Metropolitan College, which opened in April, is encouraging students and staff to get on their bikes to get fit and go green. The school offers free healthy breakfasts for those who cycle in; competitions to win a new bike and safe cycling accessories including helmets, locks, reflective jackets; and regular visits from the 'Bike Doctor' to carry out free repairs and maintenance. Overall, the school boasts secure parking for more than 70 cycles.



PfS has confirmed the new advisers for the **Financial Advisory Services Framework**, which came into effect on 9 June. The firms are:

- BDO Stoy Hayward LLP
- Deloitte LLP
- Ernst & Young LLP
- Grant Thornton LLP
- KPMG LLP
- Navigant Consulting (Europe) Ltd
- PKF LLP
- PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

The financial framework is one of five current frameworks which support delivery of the BSF programme. for more information about the frameworks, go to www.p4s.org.uk/programme/BSF_Frameworks.jsp

The **Bristol Brunel Academy** (pictured below) – the first BSF school to be delivered by a Local Education Partnership - has won a prestigious architectural award for its innovative design by architects Wilkinson Eyre. The school has been named as one of the 2008 RIBA Award winners for the Wessex area in the Royal Institute of British Architects' annual awards, in recognition of its high architectural standards and its contribution to the local environment. The BSF school was one of 63 buildings across the UK to have won the 2008 RIBA Award.



Architect Robin Nicholson has been named as chair of an expert task force set up to advise ministers about how to meet its ambition to make every new school building zero carbon from 2016. The **Zero Carbon Task Force**, which met for the first time in June, will launch a call for evidence later this summer and report to ministers by the end of year on overcoming the technological and cost barriers. More information, including membership of the task force, can be found at: www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0113

Manchester has launched its newest school in the BSF programme – but it only exists online. The council has bought a plot of 'land' for the new school in the internet virtual world, Second Life. The BSF team hopes the idea will get pupils more involved in school design, allowing them to voice opinions and share ideas on how their school should look in real life. Second Life, which is used by 13 million people worldwide, is increasingly used by universities and training colleges to interest would-be students in courses.



Chelsea Football Club was the venue for 80 children from **Hammersmith and Fulham** for a one-day brainstorming session for them to create bold and imaginative schools of the future as part of their BSF project (pictured above). Students between the ages of eight and 18 took part in the Young Persons Conference, the culmination of the London borough's six-week BSF consultation events.

Tim Byles has called on ICT industry players involved in BSF to re-double their efforts in identifying and implementing a way for schools, local authorities and other agencies involved in education and the well-being of young people to collect data about students in a "write once, use many times model". Speaking at the Schools of the Future summit in Birmingham, Tim also said that with around half of all local authorities in England now engaged in the BSF programme it was becoming increasingly important that a **Schools Interoperability Framework** as a national standard for schools' data interchange was adopted without delay. The full speech can be read on the PfS website at www.p4s.org.uk/media/speech_list.jsp.



In July, the Southern Regional Operations Team from PFS held its monthly meeting at Bouygues UK's Westminster BSF site office, located at Blandford Street in Marylebone. The purpose of the visit was to spend time at a BSF site to experience an operational team's working environment and gain further insight into the day-to-day running of a project.

Site Managers Mark MacRae and Veronique Tatarczuk took members of PFS (pictured above) on a tour of the two Marylebone sites, providing information about what is taking place on site, the future programme and phasing plans as well as answering questions. We interviewed Veronique for this edition of *Insite* - see page 10.

Personalisation: The DCSF, supported by PFS and other key partners, are in the early stages of a 30-month design project on 'Spaces for personalised learning'. The research will look at the changes which need to be made to buildings to foster personalised learning. This project will aim to provide practical advice and evidence from live pilot projects, with the first results expected before the end of 2008.

BSF Consultation on Waves 7-15: The DCSF/PFS consultation events held in London and York in June were very well attended. There was a range of feedback which has been fed into the online consultation that closed on 4 July. The Department is now considering these responses.

Sunderland students were truly in the driving seat when work started on their new school in June. Several lucky pupils, chosen by a raffle, won the opportunity to operate the digger to begin demolition of Hylton Red House School. Their task began the £13 million transition of the school into Red House Academy, which will open in September 2009. The event marked the latest in a series of activities for the pupils who have been involved in the planning of their new school from the very early stages, also choosing its new name.

Operational LEPS under review

The third set piece review of the Building Schools for the Future process, designed to introduce time and cost efficiencies across all phases of the programme, is now under way with a look at how Local Education Partnerships are working in practice. This marks the third independent review commissioned by PFS in just under 18 months.

The Operational LEPS review, conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers, was announced in May, just weeks after Ministers gave the go ahead for the introduction this autumn of a raft of measures offering time and cost savings in the procurement phase of BSF.

Ushering in the latest review of PFS procedures Tim Byles, Chief Executive of PFS, said the time was right to turn the spotlight on the operational phase itself.

"Now that 20* deals have been signed – 12 of which are LEPS, with a further eight anticipated within the financial year – the time is right to take close look at the DNA of these partnerships and to identify best practice which can be shared with new projects coming on stream now," he added.

"We are already hearing how the long-term partnership between the public and private sectors created through the LEP has the capacity to procure wider local services beyond secondary schools, such as primary schools, healthcare, housing and leisure facilities. This review will help us to understand more about what makes a successful LEP – and how we can ensure strong and healthy partnerships in the future."

The review will consider the effectiveness of these partnerships in operation, focusing on the extent to which they offer a fully integrated solution; how they add value over the longer term and deliver continuous improvement; and will identify any learning points that need to be shared with the wider BSF community.

* now 22 deals, with 13 LEPS at time of going to press

Specifically, the review will cover:

- experiences to date from the existing operational LEPS;
- consideration of best practice in embedding partnership behaviours;
- ways in which to demonstrate value for money and the deliverables from continuous improvement;
- recommendations on how to further align objectives within LEPS; and
- a specific focus on the effectiveness of ICT integration and FF&E integration.

PwC will be conducting fieldwork with operational LEPS throughout the summer, with the review expected to conclude later this year.

A total of 22 BSF deals have now been signed in local authorities with the private sector, worth in the region of £3.5 billion.

Nottingham City Council became the most recent scheme to reach financial close in June 2008.

The BSF projects to have signed contracts with their private sector partners are: Bradford; Bristol; Greenwich; Islington; Knowsley; Lambeth; Lancashire; Lancashire (repeat x2); Leeds; Leeds (repeat); Leicester; Lewisham; Manchester; Newcastle; Nottingham City; Sheffield; South Tyneside & Gateshead (STaG); Solihull; Sunderland; Westminster; and Waltham Forest.

Thirteen of these local authorities have established LEPS: Bristol, Bradford, Islington, Lancashire, Leeds, Lewisham, Leicester, Newcastle, Nottingham City, Sheffield, South Tyneside & Gateshead (STaG), Westminster and Waltham Forest.



Five miles across the city, pupils and staff at Sandon High School are enjoying their first months in their brand-new building (pictured, left) – constructed alongside the original 1930s school.

Work on the £17m specialist Business and Enterprise school began in April 2006. The new building features the latest in classrooms including interactive whiteboards, and WiFi access throughout the school.

Other features include a 155-seat lecture theatre, a business enterprise zone and a five-court sports hall, funded by the Big Lottery Fund, to complement the school's status as a regional centre of excellence for cricket. A learning resource centre has replaced the old library and the school now boasts a state-of-the-art recording studio.

The school has also been specially designed for use both by the pupils and the local community.

For Headteacher Barbara Hall the new school is the culmination of years of hard work, pushing for a new facility which would benefit not only children and staff but could be used by the local community.

She said: "I'm absolutely thrilled that after such a long wait the students of Sandon and the Meir community as a whole are able to enjoy these wonderful facilities they so richly deserve."

But what about the students? What's their take on the new school?

Abby Silk, from Year 10, said: "I enjoy the ICT equipment and the lockers as we can keep our stuff in them rather than carrying everything around. I think the learning skills will improve as we're able to work on laptops and more students seem to work better on ICT equipment."

Tamsin Cliff, also from Year 10, endorsed Abby's views on new technology. She said: "ICT facilities are great as we have much more access to them. I also like the break-out spaces as we can go and sit and talk as a group of friends. Also with the nicer environment we respect it more and will work better."

Deputy Head Andy Housley thinks that student and teacher involvement from the start of the project has been key to its success. "This is the first time in their careers that teachers have been able to have a say in the design and development of a school. The impact of the new build has been evident in improved attendance, reduced lates, an increase in take-up of school meals and improved relationships between pupils and teachers.

"It's good to see people walking around with smiling faces, wanting to be here!"

Case study: Stoke

We invited Stoke's BSF team to tell us how their two Quick Win schools are settling in.

Examples of new build and additional build are both on offer in Stoke-on-Trent, helping to complement a multi-billion pound regeneration programme which is taking place across the city.

The first school to benefit from BSF funding was Birches Head High School, not far from the city centre. Birches Head is a multicultural city school with a strong sense of community.

Three years ago the school was given a damning Ofsted report, described as "grim, contributing to a poor ethos. The state of the school with its dismal rooms, unhygienic toilets and many drab displays depresses pupils and teachers alike". The school went into special measures. A split site, pupils and teachers had to walk a sixth of a mile several times a day in all weathers, as well as having to suffer a leaking roof and decaying concrete walls.

At the time of the report, however, BSF funding was already in place and the transformation of the school was under way.

If you would like your BSF project to feature in the next edition of *Insite*, please contact us at insite@p4s.org.uk



The full transformation to one site took two-and-a-half years to complete. Multi-coloured cladding is a primary feature of the new build which some pupils have affectionately described as "Legoland", and it presents a vivid landmark in the area (pictured, above).

Staff and pupils alike are united on most of the improvements. Rob Byrne, a Year 11 student, said: "It's very good, much better than any of the other schools around here and it's a more comfortable environment for students."

The improved premises helped the school to come out of special measures quickly.

The staff have also breathed a collective sigh of relief at the new hi-tech building. Kath Thompson, Head of Support Services, said: "The new single site premises bear no resemblance to the awful – but starkly honest – description in the Ofsted report. The new-look school is bright, stimulating and vibrant. Our premises are no longer depressing – they're something we can be proud of."



Working together

Since the last edition of *Insite*, PFS has announced closer working relationships with three of the key delivery partners in BSF, creating a single gateway for BSF. This is part of a wider move across government that will see departments assume a more strategic function and devolve more delivery issues to agency bodies.

PFS is now overseeing the contracts with:

- the **Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE)**, to ensure that all new BSF schools and Academies benefit from high-quality design;
- the **National College for School Leadership (NCSL)**, to deliver training and development courses for schools and local authorities engaged in BSF; and
- **4ps (Public Private Partnerships Programme)**, local government's project delivery specialist.

CABE

CABE provides free support and guidance to all local authorities to help them achieve consistently high design quality across all their BSF schools.

Support includes advising on the design aspects of the procurement process; assessing school designs; training school leaders, client design advisers and design champions; and, through its schools design panel, reviewing designs put forward by bidders during the procurement phase of a BSF scheme.

NCSL

The National College for School Leadership (NCSL) works to make a difference to children's lives through excellent school leadership by supporting current and future school leaders so that they can have a positive impact within and beyond their schools.

The NCSL BSF Leadership Programme, which is currently available for local authorities in Waves 5 and 6, supports school leaders and local authorities in developing their thinking and understanding of learning in the future in order to realise the opportunities that this investment provides.

NCSL's four key goals are:

- to transform children's achievement and well-being through excellent school leadership
- to develop leadership within and beyond the school
- to identify and grow tomorrow's leaders
- to create a 'fit for purpose' national college that is more strategic and offers school leaders even more leadership support.

4ps

As local government's project delivery specialist, 4ps' role in BSF is to support local authorities in delivering their projects, particularly through advice and support to elected members, corporate and project management teams and school governors. This is delivered through two contracts: the Gateway Review and the Expert Client Programme. Worth £2m and due to run until the end of September 2008, the contracts will continue unchanged, but under the management of Partnerships for Schools.

4ps is the accredited provider of OGC Gateway Reviews to the local government sector. In this role 4ps commissions peer reviews at key stages of the projects which assist authorities to successfully deliver their programmes. To assist in capacity building in local authorities 4ps has launched its new Project Director Development Programme to train up the next generation of project leaders, many of whom would work in the BSF programme.

For more information:
www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk
www.cabe.org.uk
www.ncsl.org.uk
www.4ps.gov.uk



NFER study: Vandalism and bullying decrease in 'inspirational' BSF school

May 2008 saw the release of a study conducted by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) into the effects of the school environment on young people's attitudes towards education and learning. The research found that students at one of the first BSF schools to open in England say they feel safer and enjoy going to school more now because of their new surroundings.

To reach this conclusion, the NFER asked approximately 200 students in Years 7 and 8 to complete two surveys, one just before and one five months after they moved into the brand-new Bristol Brunel Academy, which opened in September 2007. The surveys prompted students to think about both the old and the new school, school facilities, learning opportunities and how well students thought they would do in the new school.

The results of the survey suggest that students are happier in their new school. Notably, whilst only half of students said they enjoyed going to school and less than half said they felt proud of their school in the 'before' questionnaire, there was a sharp increase in feelings of pride and safety in the 'after' survey. There were also noticeable increases in the proportion of students who said they enjoyed going to school, felt valued, and found it easy to learn in school in the second questionnaire.

Vandalism, graffiti, littering and bullying were all thought to be much less of a problem by students in the new school, with those viewing such occurrences as a problem dropping from 84 per cent to 33 per cent in the new school.

In addition, descriptions of the school as 'inspirational', 'stimulating' and 'motivational' were far more common after the move to the new school. These descriptions may be correlated to the increase in the number of students who said they now planned to stay on in the sixth form or go to college, which rose from 64 per cent to 77 per cent after the new buildings opened. This suggests a strong association between the move to new surroundings and students' outlooks regarding their experience of school and their expectation for the future.

“...students feel safe, happy, inspired and more determined than ever to make a success of their education”



NFER study, cont'd...

Amongst the most significant findings, the proportions of students who said that they:

- felt safe at school most or all of the time increased from 57 to 87 per cent;
- felt proud of their school increased from 43 to 77 per cent;
- enjoyed going to school increased from 50 to 61 per cent;
- perceived that vandalism was at least a bit of a problem in their school decreased from 84 per cent of respondents to 33 per cent;
- perceived that bullying was a big problem decreased from 39 per cent of students in the 'before' survey, to 16 per cent in the 'after' survey; and
- expected to stay on in the sixth form or to go to college increased from 64 per cent to 77 per cent.

In addition, the NFER composed a separate survey for teachers at Bristol Brunel, with overwhelmingly positive feedback. One member of staff described the BSF programme as 'a fantastic initiative' and another commented that 'I feel proud to teach in such an inspirational and exciting school'. More specifically, the majority of respondents from the teacher survey noted that they enjoyed teaching more and felt more motivated and proud to be a teacher at the school following the opening of the new buildings. One teacher described the new buildings as 'generally excellent' and another as 'well designed and thought-out'.

Bristol Brunel's Executive Principal, David Carter, said: "This year has been such a positive experience for staff and students at Bristol Brunel Academy. The building is one of the most intelligent I have had the pleasure to work in, and the feedback from the survey supports the evidence that we have on the ground. Evidence that suggests students feel safe, happy, inspired and more determined than ever to make a success of their education. The building is only one feature of our improvement journey, but what a feature it is!"

You can find out more by downloading a full copy of the research, *The effects of the school environment on young people's attitudes towards education and learning*, from the Partnerships for Schools website at www.p4s.org.uk/media/press/pr_2008-06-02-NFER_Study.jsp.

New BSF school: Bristol Metropolitan College

Bristol's newest secondary school, Bristol Metropolitan College, officially opened on Friday 11 July. The second school to be delivered by Bristol's LEP, 'Bristol Met' was built by Skanska, in partnership with architects Wilkinson Eyre and ICT providers Northgate.

The school is organised in a series of 'learning clusters' for different subject areas. The central language cluster reflects the school's status as a specialist language college, with two further learning clusters linked by an internal street.





Delivery in Action

Leicester City Council

For this edition of *Insite*, PFS invited Leicester City Council to provide an update on its BSF project:

BSF is gathering pace in Leicester, with its first four BSF schools opening within the next 12 months. When the doors open to the new schools, being constructed by Leicester Miller Education Company, an environment of 'anywhere, anytime' learning will be born.

For Leicester City Council, the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) element of BSF has been placed at the core of the programme, so that the new ICT infrastructure complements the authority's wider educational agenda and improves attainment.

Leicester's ICT is being provided by Northgate Education, whose credits pre-BSF include providing services to every school in Northern Ireland through C2k, the largest and most comprehensive e-learning initiative ever implemented in the UK.

Pupils from Soar Valley Community College visiting one of Leicester's BSF projects in construction, accompanied by the Principal, Mel Berry.

N-able, Northgate's Managed Learning Environment, will provide the schools with innovative learning and teaching tools. It gives students their own personalised learning area with the support and assistance they need to maximise their independent learning and to progress in line with their individual learning plan. Accessible via the internet from any location, N-able will give each learner their own personal online space to work on assignments, store their work and access emails enabling them to communicate with teachers and fellow students.

The Leicester schools benefiting from N-able will be fully equipped with high speed broadband giving learners access to a variety of engaging online learning resources to help support their education. Using N-able, teachers will be able to view all the information they need about students in one place and set up alerts to highlight changes in student behaviour, so they can easily assess learners' work and offer as much or as little guidance as students might need. N-able will also allow schools to incorporate administration systems such as registration, student assessment and cashless catering to reduce administration and reporting time and allow teachers to once again focus on teaching.

Combining academic information and school administration systems, N-able provides parents with secure access to information about their child such as their attendance, their homework assignments and their assessments. Parents of students in Leicester will be able to keep up to date with their child's achievements online and really get involved in their child's education.

To ensure that N-able meets the needs of schools in Leicester, teaching staff and students have been involved in shaping N-able so that it has the look, feel and functionality that suits users and supports the transformation of learning in the city.

David Hyland, Managing Director of Northgate Education, said: "We are extremely proud to be involved in Leicester's Building Schools for the Future project. By installing innovative technology, Leicester's secondary schools are going way beyond government requirements to ensure that students have the best possible education resources available. It's fantastic to work with a forward thinking authority such as Leicester to create schools at the forefront of learning."

Leicester's Local Education Partnership, Leicester Miller Education Company, is managing the delivery of the schools. General manager Stephen Trebble said: "We've had extensive input from schools, teachers non teaching staff, pupils, local authority officers and ICT specialists in creating our ICT provision. The managed learning environment in the schools shows all the signs of being able to satisfy the learning needs of every secondary aged student in the city and plays a crucial part in transforming education."

Leicester City Council's BSF key facts

Number of schools:
16 in total, four in Phase 1

Project value: £235m

LEP partners: Miller Construction, Northgate Information Solutions, GSL

Wave 1 projected opening dates:

Three new schools, one partial rebuild / partial refurbishment

Fullhurst Community College:
Partial opening January 2009,
fully open October 2009

Beaumont Leys School: June 2009

Judgemeadow Community College:
June 2009

Soar Valley Community College:
June 2009

If you would like your BSF project to feature in the next edition of *Insite*, please contact us at insite@p4s.org.uk

Event report

SSLD Launch
12 May 2008



A series of school design guidance booklets was officially launched at RIBA on 12 May.

Developed by the DCSF and Pfs specifically for BSF, the suite of guidance documents in the *Standard Specifications, Layouts and Dimensions* (SSLD) series includes:

- SSLD 1: Partitions in Schools
- SSLD 2: Floor Finishes in Schools
- SSLD 3: Toilets in Schools
- SSLD 4: Lighting Systems in Schools
- SSLD 5: Roof Coverings in Schools
- SSLD 6: Internal Stairways in Schools
- SSLD 7: Internal Doorsets in Schools
- SSLD 8: Sprinklers in Schools

The full suite of SSLD booklets is now available online, from the Teachernet website:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/resourcesfinanceandbuilding/schoolbuildings/innovativedesign/standardspecifications/

Future events

Partnerships for Schools' Annual Conference
18 September 2008

The Pfs Annual Conference will take place on 18 September 2008, at the London Marriott Grosvenor Square.

Chairman for the day is broadcaster and journalist John Humphrys, who will host a 'Question Time' Panel session.

More information, and booking details, can be found on the Pfs website at www.p4s.org.uk//media/events/ev_2008-09-18-Pfs_Annual_Conference2009.jsp.

Excellence in BSF Awards
26 November 2008

The first Pfs Annual awards were announced in July.

The categories in the Excellence in BSF Awards 2008 are:

- Best Design for a New School
- Best Design for a Remodelled School
- Most Promising Learning Strategy
- Innovation in Student Engagement
- Innovation in ICT
- Most Sustainable School Design
- Best Community Integration
- Best Operational LEP
- Best BSF Academy
- Best School Team

In addition, there will be a Grand Prix prize for the Most Transformational Team. This award will be determined by the independent panel of judges.

The judging panels include experts with a variety of interests in BSF and education issues, including Sir John Sorrell, Professor Stephen Heppell, Professor Tim Brighouse, Stephen Crowne (CEO of Becta), Chris Whitehead (Chair of the PPP Education Forum), Sue Campbell CBE (Chair of the Youth Sports Trust), and Robin Nicholson CBE (Chair of the Zero Carbon Task Force).

The awards ceremony will be hosted by actor and comedian Rob Brydon at The Brewery in London on 26 November. More information about the awards and how to make a nomination can be found at: www.p4sawards.org.uk

BETT 2009
14-17 January 2009
Olympia, London

BETT celebrates 25 years as the world's leading educational information and communications technology (ICT) event in 2009. Partnerships for Schools will once again be contributing to the seminar programme, and will be supporting the Future Schools feature that launched in 2008.

www.bettshow.com

BSEC 2009
11-12 February 2009
Manchester Central

BSEC covers the government's school building programmes - BSF, Academies and the Primary Capital Programme - in addition to traditional PFI projects. It focuses on the construction, maintenance, ICT, design and the general infrastructure of all schools - new, refurbished and old.

Pfs will again be supporting the event, and will be exhibiting at the show in addition to providing speakers to the main seminar programme and workshop streams.

www.buildingschools.co.uk

Education Show 2009
26-28 March 2009
NEC, Birmingham

The Education Show 2009 is the UK's largest showcase of educational resources of all kinds. Partnerships for Schools will once again be contributing to the seminar programme at The Education Show in 2009.

www.education-show.com



The *Insite* Interview

Veronique Tatarczuk, Site Manager, Bouygues' Westminster BSF project

Name: Veronique Tatarczuk
Age: 29
Nationality: French
Educated: Paris, France and Warsaw, Poland
Job: Civil Engineer
Previous roles: Working on hospital and school PFI projects
Current role: Site manager for a BSF Westminster school

French national Veronique Tatarczuk is a site manager for Bouygues' refurbishment of St Marylebone School, part of Westminster City Council's BSF project. She tells *Insite* about day-to-day life on site; the challenges posed by refurbishment projects; and as the first female site manager in BSF, her hopes to get more young women interested in careers in the construction industry.

"As site manager, I am responsible for all aspects of site life. It's always busy and always varied – and that's why I love it."

"I have always been interested in architecture and in engineering, enjoying both design aspects and the problem-solving elements, but for me engineering finally won out because I am inspired by turning a drawing into something real, with all the technical and practical challenges that come with it.

"The St Marylebone School BSF project is on two separate sites in the heart of London, near to Baker Street, with all the constraints that come from working on a very cramped urban site. New school buildings are being constructed on the Blandford Road site, but the Marylebone High Street site – which I manage – includes three buildings which will be refurbished over the course of the next 2½ years. A refurbishment project can be, in my view, much more demanding than a new build. But it's also what makes it interesting. There's a higher degree of involvement with design and construction activities, to finding solutions throughout the entire process as you adapt to the real situation. In this case, we are dealing, amongst other things, with a Grade II listed building in which we need to create new internal spaces, improve the overall layout, and improve the feel of the building through use of colour and furniture.

"The school is still operating on the site, so classes, exams and school life must go on with as little disruption as possible. This means we need a very detailed schedule for the 13 phases of the refurbishment. The site evolves within and around the school life.

"All aspects of larger sites need to be considered and adapted through each phase. Interface with the school and surrounding community are additional components of the site manager's role. The complex and cramped aspects of the site installation create challenges for accesses, egresses, deliveries, storage - we need to carefully plan how and when to get materials onto and around the site, so we can ensure that the school and the site's neighbours are kept fully informed about the work and how it impacts on them.

"A large part of the site manager's role is about developing and maintaining relationships with our neighbours."

"A large part of the site manager's role is about developing and maintaining relationships with our neighbours – in this case the church, businesses, and the school. I have weekly meetings with the deputy head of the school, which allows me to keep them up to date with what's happening on site, and so I can receive feedback from him, and information about school activities which may impact on our work.

"Because of the location of the site, there are restrictions on when we can work, so the site is in full flow from 8am to 6pm. However my colleagues [all male, mixed French and English] and I always make time to talk over a cup of coffee together before work begins – I think that's the French influence! – but it's a good way to discuss the day ahead to make sure each of us knows what we are doing.

"As site manager I am responsible for all aspects of site life: site activities; health and safety requirements; finding solutions to problems which arise; environmental and waste management; communication with the client and contractors. It's always busy and always varied – and that's why I love it.

"Over the coming months I look forward to working with Bouygues and the Westminster BSF team to get students more involved with this project. We would like to get the girls from the school more interested in what is happening to their school; in design aspects such as colour-scheme decisions, even what the new toilets look like – something I understand they are very keen on!

"In my last PFI school project in Peterborough we arranged regular tours of the site, including some in French, and given that my current project is for a girls' school, I am even more committed to finding ways to use what's going on in their school to interest them in a career in construction."