



## partnerships for schools

This case study looks at how Lancashire County Council and its service provider, Lend Lease, have built a campus in a single building which truly is a hub of the community.

Lancashire's BSF project won the 'Community Hub' award for the Burnley Campus at the *PfS Excellence in BSF Awards 2009*.

### Key project information

**Local authority:** Lancashire

**Service provider:** Lend Lease – Catalyst Lend Lease (Investor); Bovis Lend Lease (Construction); Vita Lend Lease (Facilities Management); LL ICT (ICT)

**Project cost:** £31m (PFI)

**Project timescales:** Lancashire entered the BSF programme in March 2004 and the Burnley Campus was completed in September 2009

**BSF Wave:** Wave 1

## Burnley Campus: an award-winning community hub

### Project description

The Burnley Campus was completed in 2009 as part of Lancashire's BSF project, which includes a further 17 schools.

The campus is a 13,300m<sup>2</sup> single building containing a co-located sixth form (600 places), primary school (350 places), Generic Learning Difficulties (GLD) primary (50 places), nursery and children's centre (60 places), and joint community resources – public library, faith centre, auditorium, café, lecture theatres, hydrotherapy pool, crèche, and indoor and outdoor sports facilities (designed to Sport England standards), fitness suite, climbing wall, conference facilities, ICT suites, recording studio and performance spaces.

It is located in the heart of Daneshouse and Stoneyholme wards and serves a diverse community of mixed ethnic and social backgrounds. The town of Burnley is being regenerated and Burnley Campus is at the heart of the community's transformation.

### Integrated working and delivery

Burnley Campus Ltd is owned and managed by the community. It is a not-for-profit Social Enterprise company and was set up in October 2008. It brings together like-minded partners - Thomas Whitham Sixth Form, Barden Primary School, Holly Grove School (Community Special School), Reedley Hallows Nursery and Children's Centre, Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre and Lancashire Library and Information Service - all on the new site.

The campus partners have set up a formal management group to target service delivery at a local level, to develop knowledge and skills and to improve the health and fitness of the local community. A dedicated community team applies a sliding scale of charges to ensure those in most need can access services and facilities at very low cost.

Burnley Campus provides a core to the community and encourages integration across ages, abilities, ethnic, religious and social backgrounds.

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## Design solutions to encourage integrated working

The building is a single 'V' shape with a central hub space containing the library, faith centre and café facilities, whilst providing a separation between the primary and sixth form sections of the school. Each with their own dedicated sports facilities and external play areas, neither age group is affected through the shared occupancy. In fact the school and area benefit from a co-located range of facilities.

The space was designed to make this more than a school and it is now a focal point for community activities.



## Building inter-faith links

The Faith Centre works with educational and local partners across Burnley and Pendle. The centre provides a focus for the educational, personal and spiritual development of young people of all ages, with an emphasis on curriculum activity and learning.

The centre is busy with an increasing number of groups. BSF investment is increasing understanding and personal growth, welcoming and celebrating the rich diversity of this area in all its forms.

## Sustainability

The campus is a hub of community activity beyond traditional school hours. In terms of social sustainability, it reaches out to all sections of the community to consult on the facilities and programmes available. There has been a conscious effort to ensure that the ideas and views of local people inform any developments. The Social Enterprise vehicle has acted as the means by which partnerships have been formed, not just between the schools on the site, but with stakeholder groups in the local area.

### *Environmental education*

The campus incorporates the latest sustainable elements to deliver and promote energy-saving, reduced emissions and reduced mains water consumption. As well as energy savings, these features are used to teach the need for sustainability and to help engender respect for the local environment. An example of this is the Burnley Campus 'Goes Green' project, which was lead by sixth form pupils and encouraged all users of the campus to implement a recycling strategy.

## Impact of services to children, young people and families

The Burnley Campus facilities and management team provides the opportunity for all the community to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and aspire, to make a positive contribution and to achieve economic well-being. As well as statutory teaching and learning, a full range of other activities have made a positive difference to local people and almost 100 community groups in one year.

### *Community involvement*

The children and young people at Burnley Campus regularly hold charity fundraising events, for example, Macmillan Coffee Mornings in the nursery. Sixth formers have volunteered to help Year 7s in other BSF schools with their reading and have undergone specific training to do this. A Campus Choir has been established which brings local community members into the campus. The Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre has received national recognition for its work with schools and the wider community.

### *Work experience and employment*

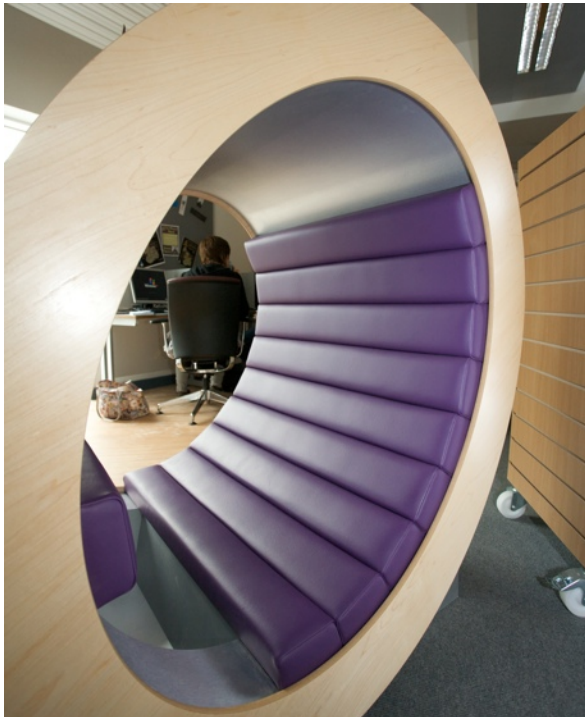
Sixth formers are offered work experience opportunities with the primary school as teaching assistants and paid employment as welfare assistants. There is also a wider programme of mentoring which takes place across the campus. Pupils have the opportunity to undertake paid employment as sports assistants or café assistants whilst working in the evenings and at weekends for the Social Enterprise.

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## Adult learning

Opportunities for adult learning are not only designed to improve skills for adults in the area but also to encourage community cohesion and provide access to services for all local people.

- The children's centre/nursery and the special school offer bespoke training for parents on specific issues.
- The library service has links with Lancashire's Adult Education Service to offer suitable courses.
- Sport and leisure - the community has access to all campus sporting and leisure facilities e.g. climbing wall, dance and drama studios and fitness suite developed.



## The issues and how these were tackled

### Co-locating various facilities within a single building and familiarising all users with the building:

The building operator supported the schools during the early stages of occupation providing information and guidance around how the building works, what to expect, and how to report issues.

### Establishing a community presence within a very high socio-economic deprivation area of Burnley:

This was overcome by designing a welcoming entrance which provides direct access to facilities for the local community.

### Familiarising all users with the contract

**processes:** Users were typically familiar with a more traditional school caretaker relationship, where new work requests and associated costs were dealt with at school level. Within PFI it sometimes takes longer for these requests to be raised, approved and authorised before work can commence. At the beginning this caused frustration and therefore demanded careful management on the part of the Facilities Management provider. Now Lend Lease carefully explains this process to the school's senior leadership team when introducing them to the new school, rather than assuming there is already an awareness of this.

### Reducing the amount of energy consumed by the

**existing assets:** This was done by co-locating the existing facilities and adopting a low energy and renewable design approach.

### Promoting environmental awareness within the

**building:** The building is designed to be energy efficient and to act as a learning tool in its own right. However, promoting understanding and appreciation of this with users proved to be difficult in the beginning. Lend Lease now includes operational guidance along with a Lend Lease User Guide.

### Providing a building which would educate its

**users and encourage a more sustainable approach to life:** Renewable technologies are incorporated in the design of the building and also supplement curriculum delivery.





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## Top Tips

- Recognise the importance of user understanding and awareness, both in terms of familiarising users with their new building and making them aware of the systems/services in place to support them.
- Explore social enterprises as an effective way of bringing various parties together to deliver a common objective.
- Brief all users in advance in order to set off on the right foot from the outset.

## Key contact

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## Further information

Please visit [www.burnleycampus.co.uk](http://www.burnleycampus.co.uk) or [www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/view](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/view) for further information on activities and community involvement.