



partnerships for schools

building schools for the future

This case study looks how additional investment is helping to transform the quality and availability of sporting and community facilities as part of Knowsley's innovative 'Centres for Learning'.

The local authority is committed to making these new facilities available to all, beyond the school day.

### Key project information

**BSF Wave:** Wave 1

**School type:** 100% rebuild to transform 11 schools into 7 'Centres of Learning'

**First Centre opened:** January 2009

'Future Schooling in Knowsley' team manage Knowsley BSF, Primary and SEN

**Partnership working:** FSK team, leisure, Specialist Sports College and National Governing Body of Sport (Football Association & Football Foundation)

## A transformational approach for PE & Sport: Knowsley's Centres for Learning

### Project description

The Future Schooling in Knowsley (FSK) team recognised the significant benefits BSF investment could bring into the area to provide transformation to its schools, children and young people and to the local community.

The authority maximised the transformational opportunities through providing additional authority investment and strong partnership working with sports specialists to ensure new teaching and learning spaces will meet the changing requirements and demands for the future.

### Project aim

The aim of this project was to improve cultural and sporting opportunities in the area through the development of new facilities that are open for longer hours and can act as the natural home for several sporting, cultural and community organisations.

### Investment and community use

Knowsley Council had effective governance structures in place to ensure that BSF was integrated as part of its wider corporate management strategies. This helped to deliver on its aims for transformation and maximised the opportunities that BSF presented through additional local authority investment.

The Future Schooling in Knowsley team held a series of consultation sessions for the selection of the preferred BSF bidder. This included 12 focus groups comprising a cross section of teachers, pupils, governors, stakeholders and residents who met regularly with bidders to challenge and improve building designs.

Knowsley delayed existing Big Lottery Funding to coincide with its BSF programme in order to invest in four all-weather pitches on 'Centre of Learning' sites.

Knowsley was very keen on creating an environment which was safe and open for children and the community to use beyond the traditional school day.

# A transformational approach for PE & Sport

Based on a zoning system, flexible community and shared spaces are open until at least 9 or 10pm weekdays and most bank holiday and weekends.

beyond the traditional school day to help support and encourage informal learning, cultural, social and sporting opportunities.

Knowsley estimate that through PFI they have bought 8,575 total hours per annum for community use

## Top Tips

### Governance:

Do not underestimate the importance of:

- Political support and/or champion to help broker and support innovative opportunities BSF presents;
- Local Strategic Partnership Executives on board in order to engage partners in cross working opportunities and link into borough wide priorities, for example, Community Sport Network helped to drive this forward in Knowsley;
- Local Area Agreement (LAA) negotiations which act as a critical lever for management of BSF, particularly through sustainable communities strategy (SCS) and Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP)
- Strong links with communities leads, particularly around neighbourhood renewal funds.

### Delivery:

- Be aware of specialist status colleges and float available, through BB98, to help support maintenance of priority curricula specialism;
- Sport and cultural partners need to allocate time for personnel to be able engage in BSF programme as early as possible within process;
- Provide a formal mechanism at the evaluation of bidder stages for sport and culture partners to provide critique to bids.

### Sports facilities:

- Be clear what engagement is needed through priority National Governing Bodies of sport and

work with your identified County Sport Partnership lead to broker this for you;

- What revenue support could be provided or expertise from local clubs to help ensure effective delivery of PE curriculum and community use for sports and leisure facilities?

### Community spaces:

- Knowsley prioritised delivery of a demand led system for community use and looked at affordability models to deliver a zoning system (mixed and sole curriculum or community use) within physically flexible spaces;
- Local children have been involved in marketing of the 'Centres of Learning' and produced a DVD to help market the spaces for local community use;
- Knowsley BC could identify how much investment they made to support delivery of community use beyond extended services;
- Every authority needs to have a strong vision for how sport and culture within a local BSF programme can support true delivery of transformation, using expertise of the local infrastructure and authority leads.

## Key contact

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