

North Chadderton School

*“Developing a lifelong offer for the local community”*

Key Project Data

Type of School: Secondary Foundation

Size: 1483

Local Authority: Oldham

Annual no. of Community Users: In development

Location: A suburban area of Oldham serving a mixture of mainly private housing with a small amount of social housing. Approximately three quarters of students are of White British heritage and many of the remainder are of Bangladeshi heritage.

Project Background

North Chadderton School is currently undergoing a new build and part refurbishment programme which is due to be completed in August 2013. This £24m project funded by the Department for Education has provided North Chadderton with an ideal opportunity to review its current partnership arrangements and to re-position itself as a community hub.

The new facilities will include an All Weather Pitch and the school contributed £325k to upgrade it to full-size to enable league football to be played. There is an existing brick building on site which is in poor condition and is being used as temporary accommodation by the Science department. Once this is vacated, the school have aspirations to convert it into a community building with its own changing rooms, refreshment area and coaching/ meeting rooms to service the clubs that use the school and nearby local authority and primary school pitches.

## Creating a sporting habit for life

## CASE STUDY

### Types of Facilities

#### Retained Facilities:

Sports hall – 5 Badminton Court Size

Gymnasium

Local Authority owned field with well drained football and rugby, athletics, softball and rounders pitches

#### New Facilities:

Fitness Studio

Indoor Multi-Use Area (carpeted and used for performing arts and PE collaborations)

Multi –Use Games Area (MUGA) –with 4 tennis courts and 3 netball courts

Full-sized 3G All Weather Pitch (AWP) floodlit until 10pm

Changing Rooms – 2 sets (wet and dry) for maximum of 30 students in each.



*“We are using a strong club as an anchor for community use”*

### Types of Community Users

North Chadderton School have developed strong relationships with a range of clubs including Chadderton Junior Football Club (who run 40 junior teams), as well as Netball, Badminton, Karate and Netball Clubs and the local Air Cadets Squadron. The groups have been using the school facilities and adjacent Local Authority-owned fields on a regular basis. The school also have a list of new community groups keen to book the new facilities from September 2013. The Management Committee from the local football club meet with the School Business Manager on a regular basis and this strong partnership will be the foundation for community use moving forward.



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### Management Model

The facilities will be managed in-house by the governing body through the Premises Committee which includes some non-voting members with an interest and background in sport. Reporting schedules are already in place along with a vision for community use and the school are currently in the process of recruiting a full time Community Lettings Manager. The role of the manager will be to take bookings, liaise with clubs and community groups, and deal with any customer service issues. The school finance department currently manage the bookings and payment arrangements and will continue to provide financial expertise. The school will also utilise their own cleaning and site supervisors and the Grounds Maintenance Person will be trained to maintain the new AWP. The school's community use charging policy has been completed

and is in line with Oldham local authority pricing structure. The school are aiming to attract some commercial lettings to subsidise their community activity and in particular are expecting income from the AWP.

*"We want North Chadderton School to sit at the heart of the Community - hence we have had to rethink the design with community users in mind"*

### Making it work

#### **Design**

During the design process for the new build a number of changes were made to ensure the building worked for the community. For example, the route for community users was rationalised as the pathway from reception to changing then to the facilities was not straight forward. The wet changing rooms now access directly out to the MUGA, and also an external toilet was added so that even when the main building is locked there is still a facility for those using the external pitches out of hours.

Plans for the additional stand-alone community building include office space for partner clubs and a refreshment area with external serving hatch and shelter for spectators. The building has the advantage of a separate entrance which could be used by the community during the school day for wide ranging activities such as Pensioners Tea-dancing, Parent and Toddler Groups and Zumba classes etc.



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### **Ethos**

North Chadderton School also has a good relationship with their local primary school and envisage that this link would be reflected in the use of the building. They desire the whole community to benefit from their capital investment and are developing a 'lifelong offer' for toddlers to senior citizens which are a combination of practical activities and further opportunities to learn.

### **Finances**

North Chadderton have drawn up a financial plan which includes a depreciation fund (or sinking fund) to cover lifecycle costs such as a replacement carpet for the AWP. The Senior Leadership Team at the school will be responsible for ensuring the right providers are identified to deliver the community provision with support from their Local Authority Leisure Department.

### Main Challenges

Overcoming planning obstacles and securing funding have been and continue to be a challenge. The school were lucky to have the financial capability to support the full sized All Weather Pitch but are expecting some return on their investment once lettings begin. They are now exploring funding opportunities to refurbish their planned community building.

*"Engaging the community will prevent discontent and boredom"*

### Benefits

Increasing the community access to the school has provided another level of security and users have developed a sense of pride and ownership of the facilities. This increased use has meant a decrease in the levels of vandalism. For example, the school is situated next to a local park and as a result have some 'overspill', to turn this into a positive they allow the Skateboarders to use the car park when it is closed and in return they have taken ownership of the area.

The PE department have increased their sporting offer including employing a Boxing Coach from a local community organisation to work with disaffected boys.

### Top Tips

- 1) Turn a negative into a positive – we have looked at a neglected building and thought what can we turn it into?
- 2) Sometimes you need to take a risk to improve your offer

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- 3) There is value in involving a strong club, they can be your anchor from which community activity grows
- 4) Make connections – never underestimate who is out there. Partnership working ensures sustainability.

### Contact details

Joy Clark – Headteacher

[jclark@northchadderton.oldham.sch.uk](mailto:jclark@northchadderton.oldham.sch.uk)

Gillian Hindle – Director of Resources and HR

[ghindle@northchadderton.oldham.sch.uk](mailto:ghindle@northchadderton.oldham.sch.uk)

