

### Hertfordshire County Council, Pegs Lane, Hertford<sup>1</sup> Sure Start Children's Centres

#### Background

Due to a lack of resources the client required a project manager within the Property Business Services team. The County Council had a legal obligation to deliver 32 Sure Start Children's Centres throughout the county.

#### The County Council's Brief

Specifically, the Council's brief required the project manager to:

- manage the Sure Start Children's Centre programme;
- establish and develop effective working relationships with external and internal stakeholders;
- establish and develop effective working relationships with appointed consultants and contractors to ensure the delivery of the build programmes are achieved to time, budget and quality;
- ensure that the each Children's Centre project represented best value to the Council;
- contribute to the preparation of project briefs and budgets; and
- maintain effective business relationships through high quality communications.

#### Specific Skills Offered to the County Council

- knowledge and understanding of designs and specifications;
- awareness of the roles of the Council's internal and external partners;
- understanding of local government procedures;
- key contact for client, end users, consultants and contractors;
- knowledge and understanding of the construction processes;
- financial control and monitoring;
- risk management;
- communication and negotiation skills especially with external agencies;
- teamworking;
- client care; and
- representing the client under the CDM Regulations 2007.

#### Value Delivered to the County Council

A key feature of the appointment was the positive working relationship that developed between the project manager and the County Council's internal and external property consultants and other stakeholders [i.e. schools, lead agencies, Town/Parish Councils]. All 32 Sure Start Children's Centres were delivered on site by 31 March 2011 to meet the conditions of the Sure Start and Early Years Childcare Grant [SSEYCG] funding.



The Ark Children's Centre at St. Catherine's CoE (VC) Primary School, Hoddesdon, Herts.



Park Street & St. Stephens Children's Centre at Mount Pleasant Lane School, Bricketwood, Herts.

#### Project Facts

##### Client

Property Business Services,  
Hertfordshire County Council

##### Job Role

Client-side project management

##### Contract Duration

June 2009 to April 2011 [22 months]

##### Job Task

To manage the delivery of 32 Sure Start Children's Centres in the Phase 3 programme

##### Budget

£11.277m for the overall Phase 3 Children's Centre programme

##### Property Consultants

Mace – architectural lead designer  
Mouchel – building surveying  
Lambert Smith Hampton – estates management  
Herts County Council – estates management  
Herts County Council – legal services  
Taylor Seymour – architectural lead designer  
Lyster Grillet & Harding Ltd – architectural lead designer

##### Contractors Employed by HCC

Ashe Construction  
Borras Construction Ltd  
Grehan Contractors Ltd  
Total Construction Ltd

<sup>1</sup>This project was undertaken by Brian O'Malley whilst employed at Lambert Smith Hampton. Brian was on secondment to Hertfordshire County Council for the duration of the contract.